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1875. THE 1875.
PITTSBURGH
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DEVOTED TO THE
Best Interests of the People!

IN POLITICS,

The COMMERCIAL will hereafter, as heretofore, be devoted to the support of Republican principles, maintaining its independence within the Republican Party, and claiming the right at all times to speak freely and fearlessly on the merits of men and measures. Party government is essential to a constitutional country, and journals claiming to be independent of party are usually also independent of principle. Faithful to the great convictions and aims upon which the Republican Party was based, it is the mouthpiece of no clique or faction, supporting the party solely because it believes that party is founded on principles of Right and Justice.

THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Of the COMMERCIAL will contain, from day to day, contributions from able writers upon all subjects—Political, Literary, Scientific, Legal, Commercial, Foreign and Local—in which all will be set forth plainly and independently, keeping in view the prime aim of the paper, which is the advancement of the best interests of all sections of the country.

ITS NEWS DEPARTMENTS

Will always contain brief but accurate reports of all the occurrences of the day. Liberal expenditures will be made in securing special telegrams and correspondence from the great news centers of the country, so that readers of the COMMERCIAL can always rely on having the news with early and full details.

In the department devoted to the publication of Local News will be found a complete daily history of the city and its environs, prepared by a corps of careful writers and set forth in attractive style.

THE MARKETS

Will, as heretofore, receive careful attention. Full and complete reports of the Produce, Oil, Coal, Iron, Lumber, Stock and Petroleum Markets, together with Prices Current, will be received daily from the Trade Centers of this country and Europe. The Pittsburgh Market, in all its branches, will be reported fully and accurately. As a commercial journal the COMMERCIAL stands second to no paper in the country.

The Financial Column will contain daily the ruling rates for money, and the prices of Stocks and Bonds at all the great trading points, with such interesting statistical matter as

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'DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND."

A Speculator Charged with Stealing $6,000 Worth of Diamonds — The Thief Says They were Smuggled by the Owner.

[From the New York Times, 9th.]

Charles Taylor, a young man of good appearance, who claims to be a diamond speculator, was arrested in Philadelphia on Monday morning by an officer of the United States Secret Service Division, charged with having stolen a quantity of unset diamonds, valued at $6,000, from one Alexander F. Johnson, a dealer in precious stones, who resides at No. 223 Mulberry street. From the statement of Johnson it appears that Taylor had been employed by various times in various capacities by him to sell diamonds and other gems. In August last he told Johnson that he had found a customer for a number of small diamonds and Johnson met him by appointment in a lager beer saloon in Bleecker street, and placed in his hands 140 unset diamonds, valued at $6,000. Taylor then excused himself for a few moments, and left the saloon, from which time Johnson did not see him again until after his arrest. In the meantime, however, information reached the secret service force that the diamonds which Johnson claimed had been stolen from him by Taylor had been smuggled into this country by Johnson, and Dr. A. P. Heichhold, a special Treasury Agent, was instructed with the duty of determining the truth of this information. He accordingly accompanied the officer to Philadelphia, and was present when Taylor was arrested, intending to take possession of the precious stones if they were found on the prisoner. Taylor, when arrested, at once said that the diamonds which Johnson charged him with stealing were smuggled, and at the same time volunteered to make oath to that effect. He was brought to the Bureau of the Secret Service in Bleecker street, and there made an affidavit accusing Johnson of having, for years past, been engaged in smuggling. Mary Shepherd, a young woman with whom Taylor had been living, also voluntarily made affidavit that to her knowledge, Johnson had been engaged in smuggling for several months, and in disposing of smuggled goods, and that in August last he had in his possession the following goods, which she knew to have been smuggled: A lot of jewelry, of various designs, valued at $1,000; a lot of small diamonds, twelve open-faced gold watches, a number of seal-skin coats and sacques, two large diamond rings, several sets of ladies' furs, twelve silk umbrellas, twelve quilted satin skirts, twelve coats, several pieces of broadcloth and a quantity of other articles. Notwithstanding the affidavits of these parties, Special Agent Heichhold found himself unable to act against Johnson "in the matter, as the law in relation to smuggling requires that the goods alleged to be smuggled shall be produced, with testimony showing the day on which they were landed. In this dilemma the case was laid on a civil process until yesterday morning, when he was brought to the Central Police Department and delivered to detectives Heidelberg and Dunneberry, who had been in search of him for several months for the larceny of the diamonds from Johnson, who had offered a reward of $500 for his capture. He was arraigned before Justice Murray, at the Tombs Police Court, but Johnson failed to appear and enter a complaint against him. Counsel for the prisoner demanded his release, but on representations of detective Heidelberg, the magistrate remanded the prisoner until ten o'clock to-day, and directed the detective to have the complainant in court at that time. It is supposed that Johnson hesitates to make a complaint against Taylor, fearing that the latter will retort with a charge of smuggling.

VOL. XII.—NO. 6. WEEKLY EDITION. DECEMBER 19, 1874.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 10, 1874.

Forgery of Registered Bonds.

Mr. Benson, of the Secret Service of the Treasury Department, arrived from New York to-day in connection with fraudulent operations in registered bonds. As the possession of a registered bond is of no use except to the party in whose name the account is opened on the books of the Register of the Treasury, the name of the payee and the number are changed. During the past week Mr. Benson recovered fifty-seven thousand one hundred dollars' worth of altered bonds. Fraudulent fire insurance companies are making an extensive use of these forged bonds. The law requiring these companies to have assets, is evaded by a loan of forged bonds at a specified per cent. Then, at the time of the visit of the proper officers, as required by law, these bonds are exhibited and passed as assets. The company assumes risks and, when a fair amount of business is reached, unceremoniously winds up. A company in Philadelphia is alleged to be in this business. As the bonds purport to be of the Government issues, the Treasury Department is now looking the matter up. It is suggested, also, that insurance commissioners, in the States having such, make a more thorough examination of the financial status of insurance companies, especially those of questionable reputation.

One Hundred Ladies in Danger.

Hitherto it has been the custom to give all paper money, as it came from the printer, three cuts. The third, or Secretary's count, is of so little importance that the Secretary has about decided to dispense with it altogether. This will result in the discharge of over one hundred and fifty lady counters.

The President and Secretary Bristow Give an Opinion.

The Banking and Currency Committee made a formal call on the President and the Secretary of the Treasury to-day, for the purpose of having an interchange of views on the financial questions. The President and the Secretary both informed the committee that, in their opinion, it was practicable and necessary for Congress to devise some measure which would bring relief to the country.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 11, 1874.

Railroad Bill in Committee.

The Committee on Railways and Canals have appointed Mr. Hurlbut, of Illinois, a sub-committee to prepare a report about the bill introduced last session, authorizing the Washington, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad Company to extend and construct their railroad from the District of Columbia and through the States of West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to St. Louis, Missouri, and a branch road from any point they may select in Indiana, to Chicago. The committee are in favor of the bill, with certain modifications, and will also probably recommend the extension of the road to Baltimore. On Friday next the committee will take up the bill in relation to the James river and Kanawha Canal improvement, and its friends who have memorialized the committee, are confident it will be favorably reported.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 13, 1874.

Senate Finance Committee.

There is a difference of opinion among the members of the Finance Committee whether to take upon one of the several financial bills now on the Senate calendar, or whether it would be better to introduce a new bill designed in the way of a compromise to adjust the main points of difference between the opposing parties in the two Houses. The proposition to repeal the Legal-tender act does not meet with favor in the committee. The members state that such action would remove the only fixed basis of present business transactions. Their views, however, incline towards a measure which will indirectly bring the two to the same standard. This the committee think may be done by making the legal tenders redeemable in a gold bond at a fair rate of interest, and to run a reasonable time. The Government securities are thought to afford reasonable grounds for the belief that such a measure as suggested would meet with public approval and would bring legal tenders up to a gold value. It is not at all improbable that the committee will introduce a bill with such a proposition as a prominent feature.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 14, 1874.

Representative Parsons, of Ohio, cut a figure before the House to-day. In reply to a statement published last week, he arose to-day to a personal explanation, and denied that he had ever had any knowledge of money being paid to Congressmen in connection with the Pacific Mail subsidy, in 1872, that he was not at the time a member of Congress. Mr. Randall asked whether he had ever received any money for helping the subsidy through Congress. Mr. Parsons promptly answered that he had. This was when he was Marshal of the Supreme Court, the Judge who sits will hardly be pleased to know that one so intimately associated with them was a prominent figure in the lobby.

Report of Freedman's Bank Commissioners.

The report of the Commissioners of the Freedman's bank was transmitted to the House of Representatives to-day, too late to be presented by the Speaker. The Commissioners state that the immediate cause of the suspension of the bank was the provision of the law of last June, which required the deposits thereafter made to be regarded as special. As these deposits were not available in payment of the call of depositors, the bank was soon forced to close up its affairs. The exact amount of the liabilities has not yet been ascertained, as all the books of depositors have not yet been presented. The funds collected, which amount to $100,000, have been deposited in the Treasury. The Commissioners would declare a dividend when they can pay twenty per cent., and the amount now on hand will not pay more than four per cent. The Commissioners have offered for sale the real estate securities in this city, but have only in a few instances been able to dispose of them. They, however, regard most of them as sufficiently good. Outside of Washington the assets will be reduced to an extent that cannot now be estimated. The number of depositors in all the branches was nearly 72,000, and the work of collecting the pass books is retarded by the prejudices and the fears of those who hold them. All the thirty-four branches have been closed up, and the papers, so far as they could be obtained, brought to Washington. The Commissioners think it will be a long time before the dividend of twenty per cent. can be declared. Altogether, the report is such as to indicate that the depositors will never get more than forty or fifty per cent. of their claims, and that will be a very long time before they get anything.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 14, 1874.

COTTON PRODUCT OF THE YEAR.

The cotton product of 1874, as estimated by cotton growers in their returns to the Department of Agriculture, somewhat exceeds three and a half millions bales. The yield per acre is reported less than in 1873. In most of the States the weather for ripening and gathering top crop has been very favorable. Reports are nearly unanimous in stating that the proportion of lint to seeds is large. The percentages of last year's aggregate of bales in the principal cotton States are as follows: Virginia, 89; North Carolina, 89; South Carolina, 92; Georgia, 93; Florida, 100; Alabama, 95; Mississippi, 90; Louisiana, 89; Texas, 90; Arkansas, 60; Tennessee, 57. This result corresponds very closely with the indications of the monthly statements of condition made by the department during the season.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Annual Report of the Erie Company.

NEW YORK, December 12.—The report of President Jewett to the Directors of the Erie Railway Company is made public. A comparative statement of the gross earnings for the fiscal years ending the 30th of September, 1873 and 1874, shows a decrease of $1,413,707. A comparative statement of net earnings for the same period show a decrease of $1,336,803. The actual net earnings for the fiscal year 1874, were $4,835,160. The decrease in the gross earnings is attributed to the general depression in business, and, under the circumstances, is not excessive. The comparative statement of the working expenses for the same fiscal periods shows a decrease of $76,904. The entire interest and rentals payable by the company for 1874, exclusive of that payable on account of the $15,000,000 of second consolidated mortgage bonds, final disposition of which was made by Mr. Gray while in London, amounted to $4,570,260 per annum in currency, equal to $380,325 per month. For the ensuing year there will have to be added to the above amount the interest on these $15,000,000 of bonds. On the 1st of July the floating debt was $2,341,298; on the first of the present month $1,521,015, showing a reduction by payments out of the earnings of $823,283, which has since been further reduced $100,000, leaving as the present debt $1,421,000 15 only. All the outstanding liabilities in Europe have been extinguished. We have no liabilities in this quarter except those which can be made upon us.

The company's offices were to-day removed to the old quarters at the foot of Duane street.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 10, 1874.

Mr. SWANN, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the Diplomatic and Consular appropriation bill, appropriating $1,344,785, which was made the special order for the 23d inst.

Mr. STOWELL, rising to a question of personal privilege, referred to the charges made against him by his political opponent (Porter) of having sold a naval cadetship for one thousand dollars to one Schoolcraft, and of having sold his votes. He had, in a letter to the Petersburg *Index*, denied the charges of Porter as infamous lies and vile slanders. He now asked for an investigation by a committee of the House. The matter was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, with power to send for persons and papers and report at any time.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Tyner in the chair, and resumed consideration of the bill authorizing the issue of 3-65 convertible bonds.

Mr. WILLARD, of Vermont, offered an amendment to it, providing that greenbacks shall not be legal tender in payment of debts contracted after July 1, 1875.

Mr. DAWES spoke at length in opposition to the bill. He declared that, with the gentleman from Ohio (Garfield), he rejoiced that the hands of Congress were being stayed up in the effort, if it had the courage to make it, to bring the country back to the laws of trade, and argued that the direct and inevitable consequence of the substitution of the pending bill for the existing state of affairs, instead of bringing relief by appreciating the greenback to gold, would sink it ten and fifteen per cent. and thereby take from the laborer ten and fifteen per cent. of the purchasing power of his day's wages and cut down his now scanty loaf of bread. The greenback would be worth as much as gold to-day, if the Government would pay it when presented, and it never would be worth as much as gold until the Government did that. Let it do that, and all the rest would follow. In conclusion he said: Those who are responsible for public affairs have no time to lose. We can put off our duty in the premises no longer. The Republican party has just three months to save or destroy. It has the power and power than itself can accomplish its ruin. It will pass out of mind and memory in the politics of this country, if at all, by its own hands. It has the power as well as the privilege of accomplishing either of these results. Whatever in the near future awaits that party, let it not die for want of courage.

Mr. PHELPS argued against the pending measure, and said: This is what I ask the Government to do. I ask the Government to pay the promises it made twelve years ago; to pay these greenbacks on demand, dollar for dollar; and I ask the Government to do so by honestly husbanding, gradually fifty years after date, the money with which to pay its present indebtedness. In my opinion there is but one way to make the currency equal to specie payments, and to follow that straight and narrow path which is the path of honesty. The Government must pay its debts when they are due; then, alone, can we expect to see again a prosperous and happy and honored nation.

Mr. SMITH, of New York, spoke in favor of a gradual resumption, as soon as practicable without disaster. There were some features in the pending measure which impressed him favorably, but there were grave objections to it. There was illimitable expansion in it, because these bonds of small denomination would circulate as currency. In order to guard against that, he would move to amend the bill by making the lowest denomination of bond $1,000.

At the close of Mr. Smith's remarks, the Committee rose, without action on the bill.

Mr. GARFIELD made an effort to have an adjournment until Monday next, but several votes showed a majority of the House against it. Mr. BUTLER remarking that he wanted to object, he was to-day the action of the House on other subjects than the appropriation bills.

An effort to have to-morrow's session set apart for debate only, was successfully resisted.

The SPEAKER announced that, by the operation of the rule, Mr. Harmer succeeded to the chairmanship of the committee on the District of Columbia, instead of Mr. Hale, of New York, resigned. Adjourned.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 14, 1874.

Mr. MORTON presented a petition of colored men of Indiana, protesting against a recent decision of the Supreme Court of that State, claiming that by the force of that decision they are deprived of the rights of citizenship, and their children of the benefits of education, and asking that the proper law officers of the Government be directed to appeal the case to the Supreme Court of the United States. Referred.

Mr. DAVIS introduced a bill to make an appropriation for continuing the improvement of the Great Kanawha river in West Virginia. Referred.

Mr. CAMERON submitted a resolution providing for the appointment of two members of the Senate and three of the House to take measures for proper notice at the Capital of the King of the Hawaiian Islands. Agreed to.

Mr. SHERMAN called up the bill to amend the existing customs and internal revenue laws and for other purposes, postponed last session, and moved that the Senate insist upon its amendments and agree to the conference asked for by the House. Agreed to, and the Chair appointed Messrs. Sherman, Frelinghuysen and Cooper such committee.

The CHAIR appointed as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to take measures for the reception of King Kalakaua, Messrs. Cameron and McCreery.

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Under a call of States bills were introduced and referred, as follows:

By Mr. TREVILLON.—A bill in relation to indictments for libel in the District of Columbia. It provides that where a libel appears in any newspaper published elsewhere, but circulated in Washington, an indictment shall be found in the District, unless the party libelled shall reside therein, and in that case it may be removed to the United States Circuit or District Court for the place where such newspapers are published.

By Mr. ALBRIGHT—For free banking and to retire legal tender notes.

By Mr. SPEER—Reducing letter postage to one cent.

By Mr. STORM—To amend the Constitution concerning the official term of the President.

By Mr. NEGLEY—For the improvement of the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio rivers.

By Mr. SMITH—For the relief of Southern States by compromise and settlements of their debts.

By Mr. WHITELEY—For a commission to investigate the political and legal condition of the Southern States.

By Mr. BAYLER—To preserve free navigation of the Mississippi.

By Mr. FINCK—A bill to repeal the law requiring prepayment of newspaper postage.

By Mr. MAYNARD—To amend the National Banking act.

By Mr. HURLBUT—To aid in the construction of a narrow-gauge railroad from Delaware to St. Louis and Chicago.

Mr. PHELPS moved to take up for consideration his bill repealing what is known as the "Press Gag Law" in Washington.

Mr. HALE, of New York, intimated that all such legislation should come from appropriate committees.

Mr. McKEE, of Mississippi, suggested that the time of the House should not be occupied in this newspaper matter while citizens were being murdered in Mississippi and while he had a proposition on that subject to be investigated.

Mr. COX suggested that Mr. Phelps' motion should be to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Mr. POLAND protested against that. Such a bill should not be passed without his having an opportunity of stating his views. He asked that the bill should be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The House refused to second the previous question on Mr. Phelps' motion.

Mr. COX then moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The House also refused to second the previous question on this motion, by a vote of 68 to 110.

The bill then, on motion of Mr. MAYNARD, was referred to the Judiciary Committee, with leave to report at any time.

Mr. BECK moved to suspend the rules and pass a resolution for the appointment of a select committee to inquire whether any official of the Government or of the District of Columbia has, by corruption, have used any means to obstruct the administration of law in the District, especially with reference to the trial of the so-called "Safe-burglary Conspiracy," with power to send for persons and papers, and to report at any time. Rejected—yeas 139, nays 87—not two-thirds in the affirmative.

Mr. McKEE offered a resolution for the appointment of a Select Committee of five to proceed to Vicksburg and investigate and report all facts relative to the recent troubles in that State, especially in Warren county.

Mr. LAMAR hoped that the House would adopt the resolution. The citizens of Vicksburg and Warren county had not shrunk from investigation, but courted it and were only anxious to have all acts connected with that transaction exposed to the country.

Mr. McKEE remarked that it was under the inspiration of the eloquent words of his colleague (Lamar) in the Summer obsequies ("My countrymen know one another and love one another") that he offered the resolution. He (McKee) knew that they would fall in love with his lamb-like constituents.

Mr. NIBLACK, of Indiana, remarked that the troubles at Vicksburg were a local matter.

Mr. ELDRIDGE inquired of Mr. McKee if he had voted on the proposition to investigate affairs in South Carolina.

Mr. McKEE replied that there had been no such proposition before the House to-day.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, hoped that the matter would be investigated. A portion of the people thought that the reports of these murders were exaggerated, and if so the facts should be known. But the murder or killing of fifty men should not be called a local affair. It was an affair which ought to be investigated, and the guilty ones punished.

Mr. ELDRIDGE—Is it any less local than murder in Massachusetts or Pennsylvania?

Mr. BUTLER—Wherever citizens are murdered I go in for investigation.

Mr. RANDALL—Who prompted these murders?

Mr. BUTLER—No matter who prompted them. Is it any more of a local affair than the safe-burglary matter?

Mr. RANDALL—The difference is that we are voting with you in this matter, and that you voted against us in that matter.

Mr. BECK—I will vote for this investigation, as I did for the other. The wrongs done in this District, in that safe-burglary matter, are as well known to the gentleman who voted against the investigation as they are to me, and the facts reach and condemn high officials of the Government.

Mr. BUTLER—I do not care whom they condemn. The courts have got that matter before them and can take care of it.

Mr. BECK—The courts have not got it. The Attorney General has dismissed the case, in order that the guilty parties may escape, and he ought to stand impeached to-day.

Mr. MOREY suggested, as a substitute for Mr. McKee's resolution, one that the Select Committee on Outrages in the Southern States be authorized to visit such points in the South, by a sub-committee, as may be deemed proper.

Mr. McKEE objected to that, because the committee to visit Vicksburg would have quite enough to do there.

On motion of Mr. ORTH, the concurrent resolution for a Committee on the reception of King Kalakaua, Messrs. Cameron and McCreery.

The Senate adjourned.

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Mr. BECK—The courts have not got it. The Attorney General has dismissed the case, in order that the guilty parties may escape, and he ought to stand impeached to-day.

Mr. MOREY suggested, as a substitute for Mr. McKee's resolution, one that the Select Committee on Outrages in the Southern States be authorized to visit such points in the South, by a sub-committee, as may be deemed proper.

Mr. McKEE objected to that, because the committee to visit Vicksburg would have quite enough to do there.

On motion of Mr. ORTH, the concurrent resolution for a Committee on the reception of King Kalakaua, Messrs. Cameron and McCreery.

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Under a call of States bills were introduced and referred, as follows:

By Mr. TREVILLON.—A bill in relation to indictments for libel in the District of Columbia. It provides that where a libel appears in any newspaper published elsewhere, but circulated in Washington, an indictment shall be found in the District, unless the party libelled shall reside therein, and in that case it may be removed to the United States Circuit or District Court for the place where such newspapers are published.

By Mr. ALBRIGHT—For free banking and to retire legal tender notes.

By Mr. SPEER—Reducing letter postage to one cent.

By Mr. STORM—To amend the Constitution concerning the official term of the President.

By Mr. NEGLEY—For the improvement of the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio rivers.

By Mr. SMITH—For the relief of Southern States by compromise and settlements of their debts.

By Mr. WHITELEY—For a commission to investigate the political and legal condition of the Southern States.

By Mr. BAYLER—To preserve free navigation of the Mississippi.

By Mr. FINCK—A bill to repeal the law requiring prepayment of newspaper postage.

By Mr. MAYNARD—To amend the National Banking act.

By Mr. HURLBUT—To aid in the construction of a narrow-gauge railroad from Delaware to St. Louis and Chicago.

Mr. PHELPS moved to take up for consideration his bill repealing what is known as the "Press Gag Law" in Washington.

Mr. HALE, of New York, intimated that all such legislation should come from appropriate committees.

Mr. McKEE, of Mississippi, suggested that the time of the House should not be occupied in this newspaper matter while citizens were being murdered in Mississippi and while he had a proposition on that subject to be investigated, and

Mr. COX suggested that Mr. Phelps' motion should be to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Mr. POLAND protested against that. Such a bill should not be passed without his having an opportunity of stating his views. He asked that the bill should be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The House refused to second the previous question on Mr. Phelps' motion.

Mr. COX then moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The House also refused to second the previous question on this motion, by a vote of 68 to 110.

The bill then, on motion of Mr. MAYNARD, was referred to the Judiciary Committee, with leave to report at any time.

Mr. BECK moved to suspend the rules and pass a resolution for the appointment of a select committee to inquire whether any official of the Government or of the District of Columbia has, by corruption, have used any means to obstruct the administration of law in the District, especially with reference to the trial of the so-called "Safe-burglary Conspiracy," with power to send for persons and papers, and to report at any time. Rejected—yeas 139, nays 87—not two-thirds in the affirmative.

Mr. McKEE offered a resolution for the appointment of a Select Committee of five to proceed to Vicksburg and investigate and report all facts relative to the recent troubles in that State, especially in Warren county.

Mr. LAMAR hoped that the House would adopt the resolution. The citizens of Vicksburg and Warren county had not shrunk from investigation, but courted it and were only anxious to have all acts connected with that transaction exposed to the country.

Mr. McKEE remarked that it was under the inspiration of the eloquent words of his colleague (Lamar) in the Summer obsequies ("My countrymen know one another and love one another") that he offered the resolution. He (McKee) knew that they would fall in love with his lamb-like constituents.

Mr. NIBLACK, of Indiana, remarked

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

Transit of Venus—Reports from Different Stations of Observation.

NAGASAKI.

LONDON, December 10.—The following dispatch has been received from Professor Davidson, Chief Astronomer of the American expedition to Nagasaki:

NAGASAKI, December 9.—During our observations of the transit of Venus to-day, the weather was unusually cloudy and unpromising at the time at which it was calculated the transit would begin, and passed away without our being enabled to record the exact moment of the first contact with any trustworthy results. After about a quarter of an hour, and before Venus had reached the stage of her second contact, the observer at the Equatorial caught a glimpse of the sun and planet, and was quite successful in taking several measurements of the planet's cusps. During the interval between the first and second contacts, the time at which the latter contact occurred was obtained with success and recorded. Shortly after the second contact, further measurements of the distance between Venus and the sun's western edge were made with a micrometer. In all there were taken one hundred and fifty micrometic measurements of the line between these cusps. Besides these, thirty-one micrometic observations were made of the passage of both edges of the sun across the meridian of the station, and similar views of the right and left limbs of Venus in crossing the same line. Eighteen micrometic surveys were made of the respective declinations of the sun and the planet by observing both the upper and lower limbs while passing the meridian. About sixty excellent photographs of the transit, during various periods of its occurrence, were taken. Extreme good fortune attended the astronomers, for just as Venus departed from the sun, the clouds began to gather and threatened rain. Toward the close of noon we were enabled to telegraph the difference of longitude to Vladivostak, so that the location of the position here is definitely determined.

HOBART TOWN.

HOBART TOWN, TASMANIA, December 9.—Although the weather was bad, our observations at the time of the transit were particularly successful. We succeeded in taking one hundred and thirteen photographs of Venus during her passage over the disc of the sun.

TEHERAN.

TEHERAN, December 10.—The observation of the transit of Venus at this point was very successful.

ADDITIONAL POINTS.

LONDON, December 10.—Telegrams in regard to the transit of Venus report that the observations failed in Ormus, Orenburg, Kasan, Uralsk, Astrachan; Kertch and Pilbis, but were entirely successful at Yokohama.]

England.

STORM OF WEDNESDAY—LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

LONDON, December 10.—The storm of yesterday was very disastrous to shipping. A dozen vessels are ashore on the Goodwin's, one is reported sunk with all on board. The mails from France were several hours behind time. Heavy damage was done to the works in the Harbor of Jersey. Two hundred yards of pier were swept away, and blocks of concrete weighing several tons were displaced and broken. The storm was very severe on the Continent. The telegraph lines between Italy, Switzerland and Paris are down, and communication interrupted.

AN M. P. UNSEATED FOR BRIBERY.

LONDON, December 10.—Mr. Brand, Liberal Member of Parliament for the borough of Stroud, has been unseated for bribery.

STEAMER AND ALL ON BOARD THOUGHT TO BE LOST.

LONDON, December 11.—It is feared that the steamer Pellean, from Cardiff for Cork, has been lost, with all on board. The passengers and crew numbered forty-six.

PARLIAMENT TO REASSEMBLE IN FEBRUARY.

LONDON, December 13.—Parliament will reassemble on the fifth of February.

BISHOP COLENSO SILENCED.

LONDON, December 14, 5:30 A. M.—The Bishop of London has prohibited Bishop Colenso from preaching in this diocese.

SPANISH RUMORS.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Bayonne, telegraphs that the report is in circulation there that General Lonegyas died of wounds received in the last battle with the Carlists, but dispatches from San Sebastian, the General's headquarters, leave the report unconfirmed. Telegrams from Carlist sources assert that he was killed on the field.

Germany.

TRIAL OF COUNT VON ARNIM.

BERLIN, December 11.—Upon the resumption of Count Von Arnim's trial, this morning, Herr Tessendorf, Privy Council of Von Bulow, Under Secretary in the Foreign Office, was read. In this communication the Count maintained that after he was placed on the retired list he was no longer amenable to the disciplinary power of the Foreign Office. Herr Schevan, Secretary of the German Legation at Paris, testified that he had learned that documents were missing from Baron Holstein, also a Secretary, while searching among the archives for Prince Hohenlohe, Ambassador at this point. Dr. Doekhorne, of the counsel for defense, stated that in December last Baron Holstein confessed that he had received orders from Berlin to watch the actions of Count Von Arnim and send continuous reports in relation thereto. The Count decided to send a telegram to Baron Holstein, summoning him to appear and defend himself against the charge of Dr. Doekhorne.

Count Von Arnim here remarked that he had already stated the whereabouts of all the documents, except a few unimportant ones in the third case. He could not reproach the staff of the embassy for carelessness, and accepted the entire responsibility.

Professor Lowis testified that Von Arnim consulted with him whether he should wait for the Foreign Office to commence proceedings, or take the initiative himself, with Canada, believing that such treaty, if ratified, would result in completely breaking down the barriers which now exist against the introduction of the markets of the products of low-priced European labor; in disastrously impairing the revenues of the Government; in preventing the payment of the interest on our national debt, and in continuing indefinitely the general distress which now prevails.

An Executive Committee of five was appointed to carry out the plan of curtailing production, as follows: Wm. H. Ainey, of Allentown; J. B. Moorehead, of Philadelphia; Wm. H. Vogel, of New York; James J. Bennett, of Pittsburgh, and H. L. Brooke, of Baltimore. Adjourned.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Important Arrest of Counterfeiters in Northern Pennsylvania.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ERIE, PA., December 13, 1874.

Gilbert B. Perkins, United States Secret Service detective, has arrested and brought to this city two shovers of the queer, named Benjamin F. Erway (hailing from Harrison Valley, Potter county,) and Nathan B. Adams, of Colesburg, same county. Erway had been so successful in his business that no bank being near his field of operations, that the currency of Harrison Valley is about all counterfeit. Perkins got track of the organization

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1874.

THE export of specie from New York, last week, was $2,460,000, and the daily shipments average $400,000. It is idle to talk of gathering in coin sufficient to resume specie payments whilst coin is going out of the country at the rate, nearly, of half a million a day.

LATE English mail advices note visible signs of trade improvement, partly the effects of the bountiful harvests in that country. The consumer has been gaining from the low prices, and the manufacturer by the diminished amount of capital required for his purposes. The conditions of profit are, therefore, much better than at the corresponding period of last year.

ENCOURAGING indications of activity in the New York dry docks and shipping yards are reported by the papers of that city. More ships and barks have been docked during the last eight days than in any fortnight in the month of November, and the prospects for the remainder of the year are considered more than ordinarily favorable. This is a healthy sign in a great port like New York.

THE opposition to the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty is still spreading. A meeting of the Ohio Wool Growers' Association will be held at Columbus on the 5th of January, for the purpose of adopting proper resolutions with regard to the subject. All the great industries of the country are most strongly opposed to the outrageous foreign swindle, and the Senate will do excellently well to heed their temper concerning the matter.

THE total exports from New York for November amounted, including specie, to $24,436,835, against $31,941,724 for the corresponding month last year. For the past eleven months they amount to $309,159,934, against $321,267,655 for the corresponding period of 1873. The decrease, which is quite notable, has been mainly in domestic produce. Excessive of specie, the total foots up $286,455,347, a decrease from last year of $14,559,373.

WASHINGTON advices say that all efforts thus far to get any prominent Democratic Senators to join in conference with the view to come to some general agreement relative to the new financial scheme, has failed. The Democrats do not want to put an end to the financial troubles of the country, and hence they refuse to join in any general measure of relief. They think their only chance of success in 1876 is in keeping the country in its present depressed condition.

ON twenty-three of our principal railroads, whose earnings are reported for November in the *Financial Chronicle*, the total increase over the same month in 1873 is $580,810. Nearly every road in the list shows an increase of more or less importance. Another favorable indication is, that railroad bonds are in good demand at steady or advancing prices, the general tendency being toward an increased confidence in the bonds of all companies which are believed to be able to pay their interest regularly.

THE nomination of Col. JOHN M. THOMPSON, of Butler county, by the Republican conferees of the old Twenty-third district, to fill the vacancy in Congress caused by the resignation of McJUNKIN, was one eminently fit to be made. Col. THOMPSON has in him all the elements that go to make up a good Congressman, and we regret that his services cannot be had in the next Congress. The election takes place on Tuesday, the 22d inst., and we hope the Republicans of the old Twenty-third will show sufficient energy to secure the election of a member who is in every way qualified to represent them.

THE Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press* says there is no reason to doubt that WALLACE has the inside track for United States Senator. This confirms our judgment that the party would not be foolish enough to take up a corrupt old lobbyist like BLACK, but disappoints our hope that CLYMER would come out the winning man. All the unredeemable Copperheads outside of the State want BLACK to be elected; but their eagerness has defeated itself. WALLACE is the coming man, and the New York *Tribune* will wear crape on its left arm for thirty days to indicate its deep grief at being unable to defeat him.

WE HAVE neglected, hitherto, though not intentionally, to call attention to the proclamation of Governor HARTRANFT, in our advertising columns, setting forth that during the year ending November 30, 1874, the State debt was reduced $1,230,186. The total State debt is now but $24,500,000, and the Sinking fund holds securities amounting to nearly $11,000,000, which are pledged to its redemption, so that the real debt is only $13,500,000. The steady and rapid reduction of this debt under Governor HARTRANFT's administration is the strongest possible testimony to the honesty, ability and fidelity with which the affairs of the Commonwealth have been administered under his fostering care.

A WESTERN Democratic paper says that the Democrats of the country are united upon the *principles* of the party, but differ as to questions of *policy*. And that is true of any and every party. There are general principles upon which Republicans everywhere are united, but they differ upon questions of policy and expediency. So far, both parties are in the same situation. The trouble with both of them, at present, is that there is no special conflict between the two growing out of their differing principles, and that the questions of policy and expediency upon which both present broken fronts are the very questions that are pressing for immediate settlement at their hands. The people, tired of the inability of the Republicans to agree upon questions of policy, have transferred the settlement of them to the other party; and that party finds itself just as unable to agree upon them as did their opponents.

IT CANNOT be charged that the special traveling correspondent of the New York *Times* in Arkansas is in the habit of misrepresenting the people of that State, or giving to his statements a partisan Republican hue. On the contrary, it has seemed to us, in reading his letters, that he has quite often failed to award the Union people of that section, white and black, their just and proper due. Yet this is what he feels compelled to say with regard to the absolute social ostracism of all who are in any way connected with or friendly to the colored people. It is not a little suggestive:

"Wherever there is a negro majority the Democratic councils are swayed by men who come as close to the popular Northern idea of Copperheads as can well be imagined. They endure rather than court the assistance of Northern Conservatives; they nourish in their hearts a burning hatred for all prominent Republicans who helped to maintain the Union, and they look forward to the time when their party will be uppermost, and they will be able to annul the past."

THE *Engineering and Mining Journal* states that, owing to the high price of anthracite coal, in the East, this year, many consumers have been driven into the use of bituminous coal, the production of which is steadily increasing, and that the extent of the substitution is not yet fully appreciated.

It is also stated that the anthracite coal combination feel that they made a mistake in fixing a high price for coal in the early part of the season, and in maintaining it; but that, having entered into contracts for the season, at these rates, they had no alternative but to keep them up. They will probably make no contracts for 1875, and will open up the market for the year at a considerable reduction on the prices current in 1874. If they expect any custom from the iron furnace men, they must put down prices to $2 50 per ton at the furnaces.

The steady increase, in the Eastern States, of the consumption of bituminous coal is one of the noteworthy signs of the times. Up to December 5, the amount transported by railroad was as follows:

	Tons.
Barclay region	281,169
Broad Top region	212,681
Clearfield region	155,725
Allegheny mountain region	192,895
Westmoreland gas coal	831,812
Total Pennsylvania	2,168,187
Cumberland region, Maryland	2,245,970
Total	4,414,156

SECRETARY BRISTOW goes at it wrong end foremost in the following passage from his annual report:

"This inconvertible paper currency begets the delusion that the remedy for private pecuniary distress is in legislative measures, and makes the people unmindful of the fact that the true remedy is in greater production and less spending, and that real prosperity comes only from individual effort and thrift."

If the true remedy is in greater production and less spending, where is the increased production to find a market? There can be no sellers where there are no buyers, and as "less spending" must mean less buying, it must also mean less selling; and to increase the production upon a decreased market must be a very poor remedy. The fact is, our great trouble consists in over-production and under-consumption. We have been producing too much and consuming too little. The result is a glutted and stagnant market. There can be no benefit from increased production until there is *more* spending, instead of less. The day of renewed prosperity will dawn when the demand for our productions becomes equal to the supply, and it will never dawn while we go on producing lavishly with one hand and cutting off the demand rigidly with the other.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

"December in his icy bonds
The stiffed handsaw locks and blanches,
And sighs across his frozen ponds,
And whistles in the naked branches."

Nearly all the Southern cities are overrun with people out of employment.

The probabilities are that the next battle in the South will be fought at New Orleans.

The present demand for the silver trade dollar is 500,000 a month, and is constantly increasing.

Now that the police have discovered who were the Charlie Ross abductors, let them find Charlie himself.

An elevator company, at Toledo, Ohio, run all their engines by steam generated over fires of corn cobs.

The export of railroad iron to Russia still continues. Evidently the Czar isn't crazy on the railroad question.

An English company, with a capital of a million pounds sterling, are unearthing coal and iron in Alabama.

Won't it be a sight to see—the King of the Cannibal Islands weeping over the grave of George Washington?

Our scientists were far in the lead of those of all other nations in the matter of observing the transit of Venus.

The debt of Illinois on the first of January, 1875, will only be $3,370,970, and there is money in the Treasury to pay it all off.

The Texas cattle trade has assumed a magnitude requiring a line of steamships plying between Europe and this country.

In Scotland there was lately sold two of Robert Bruce's bones, and melancholy to relate, they brought but five pounds sterling for the two.

There is scarcely a Southern city of any prominence in which there is not a new factory of some kind, the result mainly of Northern industry.

Gilmore is at it again. He is planning a bigger-than-ever jubilee at New York, which, it is declared, will make Boston wish she were dead.

Chicago ministers of all denominations are uniting for the purpose of inaugurating an extensive religious revival. There is abundance of room for it.

It is the torch that makes the powder dangerous. A Chicago college president says he has girls in his school he wouldn't trust himself with five minutes.

Coquetry is human, flourishes everywhere and may always be counted upon, and hence a New York capitalist has invested all his money in cosmetics.

The sales of cheese during the season at Utica were 211,642 boxes, with a valuation of $1,777,692 80, an increase over last season of upwards of a million of dollars.

The question of the submarine tunnel proposed to unite Calais and Dover, is being studied with greater activity than ever. And that's about all it will amount to.

Judging from the local standard, that is to say. A Chicago divine thinks that, "were our world to end now, its existence must be counted a failure in the administration of the Deity."

Emmet county, Michigan, is the only one in the State which gave a majority for woman suffrage, the vote being 41 for to 34 against it. Nine-tenths of the voters are native American Indians.

The Supreme Court of Maine has decided that women cannot hold any office or justice of the peace, or any other office mentioned in the Constitution, but that the Legislature may authorize women to hold any office created by that body.

The universal British trader. Away up in the Himalaya mountains, where they never dreamed of encountering an European, some Russian explorers recently met an Englishman with six hundred mules, laden with an assortment of English goods, on his way to Yarkund, the capital of Eastern Turkestan.

PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. Sartoris are half seas over toward the White House.

Captain Brady, who saved the steamer Pennsylvania, and for many months had an action against the company for salvage, was recently killed by Chinese pirates, while on a trip from Canton to Macao.

Dr. Peter Gonsolus, of Texas, aged seventy-six, has married six young girls in his day, and has forty-one children still living. What a loss to the State it would have been had Dr. Peter gone solus all his life.

The new Japanese Minister to the United States, Yoshida Kigonari, has reached Washington. He is a middle-aged gentleman of culture, speaks English well, and spent a number of years in European cities, where he was quite popular and became acquainted with numerous Americans.

Information has been received from General Miles' headquarters, on the Wichita, that the Zelder (German) girls, sisters of the two little ones recently rescued from the Indians, are in the hands of White Bird's band of Cheyennes, and a scout has been sent to White Bird's camp to treat for the release of the captives.

A real hero is he who, in the presence of danger, conceals his fear lest others becoming terror stricken might lose their senses. Such a man was found in the person of a Roman Catholic priest in New York on Sunday, who quietly urged his large congregation to leave the church, and enabled them to do so, with absolute ignorance of the cause, until far before they were fairly out, flames broke forth under the altar where the priest had been standing.

A Pretty Little Ghost Story.

A sweet little story of spiritualism that throws Katie King and the Eddy brothers' ghost-shop into the shade, now comes to us from Burlington, Vermont, the present head-quarters for the supernatural, though the scene itself is laid in Boston. A family had lately removed from one of the rural villages into Boston, occupied an almost new house on one of the newly laid-out streets. Their children, who had one of the rooms of the house set apart as a playroom, soon began to tell about a little boy who came to play with them, but whom the parents never saw enter or leave the house. When the children were asked to bring their new companion in to see their parents, the reply was that they couldn't do it because "he went right away." Things went on in this way for some time, and the perplexed parents asked to be called to see the strange child when he came again. The next day they were called to the play-room to meet him, but upon reaching the door were informed by their matter-of-fact little ones that their companion had "gone right away" again as before. A few days later they were requested by the children that their playmate, now well known by name, told them his father and mother were going to Europe in a few days, and he gave their names and the vessel they would sail by from New York. The gentleman, without saying anything, went to New York, found such names on the steamer list, went to the dock on the day of sailing, sought out the person and inquired if they had a boy of such age and description as his children had related to him. With great emotion they replied: "We had such a boy, but he is dead; why do you ask?" Further conversation convinced them and the Bostonian that the spirit of their darling boy, never seen by those who knew and loved him, was the frequent visitor to the house of perfect strangers, and seen and talked with by the children of others. And now will Katie King please trump that trick?

CONGRESS can overcome all the stagnation and hard times by perfecting measures for the completion of both the Northern Pacific and the Texas Pacific Railways, and this would do more to restore confidence and infuse new life into business than anything else now proposed. The Government can as well afford to do this as to go on paying away millions of dollars annually for the mail service in immense wildernesses, and for the transit of troops and military supplies and Indian goods overland where there are no railroads. The cost of lumber, forage and fuel in the military service on these long routes is enormous, whereas on routes where railroads are operating settlers soon furnish supplies at low rates. So great was the expense of the military service in New Mexico and Arizona that General Sherman thought it would be cheaper to pay Mexico to take back the Territories. But in Colorado, where there are railroads, there is no such trouble.—*Philadelphia North American.*

STATE NEWS.

The crusaders are still at it, in Williamsport.

Bark hauling business is brisk in Sullivan county.

The Robesonia furnace, in Berks county, is in full blast.

That new Democratic daily at Williamsport, "filled a-borning."

"Fresch Rost Peenotes" is the sign on Allentown peanut stands.

Of the seven furnaces in New Castle, but one, the Shenango, is out of blast.

Reading ships $50,000 worth of veal calves to New York every winter.

A seventy year old goose was one of the attractions of the Doylestown poultry fair.

Preparations are rapidly being made to raise a soldiers' monument in Coudersport

The Lancaster papers complain of disgraceful rowdyism on the streets of that city.

There are four hundred and thirteen people in the Schuylkill county almshouse.

A young fellow in Washington came near choking to death on a piece of oyster shell, last week.

Last week a cat died in Harrisburg which had reached the age of nearly twenty years. *Requies-cat*, etc.

The Lancaster *Express* "goes for" the church fairs where raffling and other sinful grab games are indulged in.

A pig and a cat have struck up a close friendship in Oil City, and are almost inseparable companions.

The late Peter Seeger, of Philadelphia, bequeathed $21,000 to be divided among charitable institutions.

Mr. John Green was run over by a buggy in Harrisburg, on Saturday night, and died on Monday morning.

The body of Solomon Fister, of Albany township, Berks county, was found in the canal at Reading on Sunday.

A tramp, supposed to be one Michael Lynch, of Troy, N. Y., was found dead at Phœnixville on Sunday morning.

The One Hundred and Thirty-first Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers held their annual reunion at Sunbury on the 15th inst.

According to the decision of Judge Allison, of Philadelphia, assessors have no right to assess voters for the February election.

Michael Bomberger, one of the oldest citizens of Hummelstown, aged seventy years, died suddenly of heart disease on Sunday morning.

There was another riot at Mahanoy City on Saturday night, with much promiscuous pistol firing. Result: several men wounded, but no arrests.

Hugh McTague, nine years old, fell into the dirt pocket at No. 5 breaker, Coal Dale, Schuylkill county, last week, and was smothered to death.

The *Schuylkill Republican*, published at Minersville, has entered upon its third year. It is a handsome paper, and as enterprising as handsome.

The hog disease prevails to a considerable extent in the vicinity of Womelsdorf and in several localities in the northern part of Lancaster county.

Harvey Crouse, a German boy, was shot and killed by Frank Dapp, a companion, while hunting rabbits near Collomsville, Lycoming county, last week.

A mammoth cave has been discovered near Howellsville, Chester county, which, when fully explored, is expected to rival the world-famous cave in Kentucky.

George Foelker, a German, sixty-five years old, hung himself in Tulpehocken township, Berks county, on the night of the 10th inst. Whisky was the cause.

Mrs. Joseph Funk, of Schuylkill township, Chester county, while running to catch a turkey, broke her leg near the ankle. She hasn't the sympathy of the turkey.

The furnace of the Kemble Coal and Iron Company, at Riddlesburg, Bedford county, made 895 tons of iron during November. The furnace will be kept in blast during the winter.

There were two hundred and ninety-eight deaths in Philadelphia, last week—forty-six from consumption. Of the whole number, one hundred and thirty-two were under five years old.

The revival in the Methodist Episcopal church, at Cornwall, Lebanon county, which has been in progress for some time, still continues. There have been about sixty persons converted.

A Mauch Chunk driver allowed two men to ride with him, and took a drink with them. The liquor was drugged, and when the wagoner awoke he was minus his companions and $40 in money.

The Reading Company's Norwegian shafts, in Schuylkill county, have finally tapped the mammoth vein, at a depth from the surface of 1,909 feet. The vein is forty-eight and a half feet thick.

A Harrisburg chicken-thief left his pocket-book, containing a tax-receipt in his name, in the coop. If he should be sent to the penitentiary, the Democracy would be short one vote in his precinct.

The Washington *Reporter* says: We regret to learn that Hon. Judge Farrer, member-elect of the Legislature from this county, is so seriously ill that it is feared he will not be able to attend the opening of that body on the fifth proximo.

Two of the officers of the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company, Clifford Pemberton, Manager, and Harry Pemberton, Vice President, have resigned. The salaries and royalties of these gentlemen are said to have been about $46,000 per annum.

J. N. NeCrea, of Philadelphia, has been appointed Superintendent of the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Col. S. A. Black. The new official will assume the duties of his position about the first of January.

John F. Alcorn, of Cherrytree township, Venango county, called for pulverized rhubarb at the drug store of J. K. Sandoe & Co., in Titusville, and the clerk gave him powdered opium by mistake. A dose of this was administered to Mr. Alcorn's infant, and caused its death.

The Washington county court was engaged a whole week in the trial of two cases where the amount at stake was less than thirty dollars. The *Reporter* very sensibly says it would have been cheaper to have paid the amount claimed in both cases out of the county treasury.

Alex. Gress, a wagonmaker of Greensburg, was arrested last week and held to bail for a hearing on a charge of having attempted to commit an outrage on the person of a daughter of a well-known Greensburg lawyer. The accused denies the allegation, and asserts his ability to prove an *alibi*.

For the fiscal year ending November 30, 1874, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company shipped 15,150 cars of oil from Harrisburg to Communipaw and intermediate points on the road. Reduced to barrels this amount reached 1,060,500, or 42,420,000 gallons.

If a census could be taken within the next few days, of all the young ladies who are now engaged in making elaborate pincushions and pen-wipers and other extravagant things, to present certain young men at Christmas, we'd know just how many unmarried girls under twenty years of age there are in the country.—*Norristown Herald.*

The Doylestown *Democrat* tells this remarkable fish story: "A few days ago, while Joel Slifer, of Haycock, was felling timber, he cut down a maple tree about seven feet in diameter, in the center of which, about thirteen feet from the ground, embedded in the heart, he found a full sized sunfish, as perfect as though it had been caught but an hour before."

Peter Cooper on the Financial Question.

The venerable Peter Cooper, of New York, has published a letter on the financial situation, in which, after discussing our present evils and their origin, he passes to speak of the remedy. Under this head he has the following wise and timely remarks:

"There is nothing that will revive the fallen prosperity of our country and enable people to pay their city, town and national debts but a wisely and well-arranged revenue tariff. It is the only means that will enable us to pay the nation's debts. This was made clear by events that took place in our own country between the year 1834 and the year 1842, when our tariff, which had just paid off our old national debt, was then repealed. By this repeal our mills were stopped, as they now are; our furnaces closed; lands fell to half price; the Sheriff was at work; States repudiated their debts; the United States was unable to borrow money at home or abroad, and bankrupt laws were passed by Congress. The tariff system was again tried in 1842, and in less than five years the production of our country in iron alone rose from 2,000 to 8,000 tons of prosperity became universal, and the public revenue greater than ever. In 1846 the free trade policy was again tried by repealing the tariff, and, notwithstanding the enormous amount of gold found in California, money was as high as ever; iron came in and gold went out. In 1857 the culmination was reached, and a crisis of ruin came on, when the Treasury was nearly bankrupt. In three years immigration fell below the number that arrived twenty-eight years before. The results of the two systems will be clearly seen by following the tariffs of 1810, 1828 and 1861, when labor was well paid, money plenty, and emigration great. We cannot too carefully contrast the prosperity that has uniformly followed the tariff policy of our country, in comparison with the frightful consequences of an approach to free trade, as they appeared in 1817, 1834 and 1857, when labor was ill paid, money scarce, immigration declining, and bankrupts were numbered by thousands."

CHARLIE ROSS.

Probable Recovery of the Lost Boy—What the Detectives Have Been Doing.

The shooting of the two burglars, Mosier and Clark, at Bay Ridge, Long Island, on the night of the 12th inst., and the confession of the last named that he and his companion were the abductors of little Charlie Ross, has awakened a fresh interest in the case, and caused the police of Philadelphia and New York to make public a partial history of their efforts to secure the return of the boy to his distracted parents. Each of the Philadelphia papers of the 13th inst. devotes several columns of space to the subject; and from them the following brief outline is made up:

Mosier and Clark, it would seem, were members of a gang of out-laws, who were river pirates and burglars, the first named being its captain. Detective Superintendent Walling, of New York, was the first to suspect the connection of Mosier and Clark with the abduction, and he put his own men to searching for them, and also notified Chief Heins, of Philadelphia, who started his force on the trail. It was ascertained that the two were in the habit of committing burglaries along the shores of Long Island Sound, and taking refuge in some of the many uninhabited islands in that vicinity. Superintendent Walling had a small tug-boat fitted up for a cruise among these islands, up the Hudson and along the canal, and manned by his keenest detectives. Twelve days and nights were spent in the quest, forty different islands having been visited and every house and piece of woodland thoroughly searched. Notwithstanding repeated disappointments, vigilance was unrelaxed, and the police were weaving a net around the abductors which must soon result in their capture, had not death stepped in ahead of them. Clark, *alias* Douglass, was not prepared with poison to know the place of the Ross child's secretion, but stated that Mosier had a wife and children, and the Philadelphia child might be with them.

Mosier, who has numerous *aliases*, was a fugitive from justice, having escaped from jail at Huntington county, N. J., where he was confined on a charge of burglary, before he went to live in Philadelphia. Here he rented a house in Monroe street, where Clark, *alias* Douglass, lived with him part of the time, the latter pretended to be peddlers, and, to keep up the ruse, had a horse and wagon with which to sell wares about the city. It was with this horse the child was driven away. Once away from Philadelphia with Charlie Ross in their possession, they drove their horse leisurely to New York, hawking their wares by the way. Here they remained in Philadelphia several days after their departure, when she too went away, taking her children. It was known to the Philadelphia officers that it was Mosier who wrote the anonymous letters to Mr. Ross, sending them on from New York to his wife in Philadelphia, who caused them to be delivered.

It is also known that two other men were engaged in the abduction of the Ross boy, but if the police have any knowledge of their identity, they keep it to themselves. Of the prospects of recovering the child, Detective Wood, of Philadelphia, who has been engaged in working up the case from the beginning, says:

"I don't think they can keep it out of the way. Either the two others men have got it, or Mosier's wife has it. I don't think she can keep out of the road. She has no means—neither the latter nor Mosier—and for we know that the whole gang were reduced so low that they had to make forays into the town and commit house robberies. It was while engaged in such an affair last night Mosier and Clark were killed. They had to steal to live, and to steal to be able to hide the child."

OHIO NEWS.

A man named Bluebaugh, residing in the eastern portion of Knox county, was out coon hunting on Saturday. He climbed a tree to more particularly carry out the detail of that enlivening amusement, when by some mischance he fell to the ground and was killed.

At Zanesville Judge Marsh has granted a perpetual injunction restraining the Trustees of the Water Works from preventing the free use of water at public school buildings within the city limits; also, has decreed the title to the school buildings vested in the City Council.

William Creager, a butcher, who fell into a tub of scalding water at Circleville, Monday, died the same night, in great agony. While pulling a hog to a hot-water tank for scalding, he lost his hold and fell backward into the scalding water, which entirely covered him. When his clothing was removed the skin came off both arms and body.

The Caldwell *Republican* says: William Calvert, a miner at Nicholson's mines, one day last week, went into the smith shop with a lot of loose powder in his pantaloon's pocket, which he commenced throwing into the fire. The fire followed up the loose powder from his hand to his pocket, and exploded it, burning him so badly that he cannot survive.

The Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, the only respectable Democratic daily in its section, was so encouraged by the recent successes of its party that it has indulged in a bit of pardonable extravagance in the shape of a new dress of type. It is as neat in appearance as the tidiest maid, and is always up to the times in the matter of news. Its politics, however—well, no matter.

A Mrs. Calley, thirty-three years old, sat down on the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis track near Grafton, one day last week, and, a train soon after coming along at full speed, covered her head with her shawl and waited for the fatal blow. But left the house about eight o'clock Monday evening and did not return, and Tuesday morning his family found his body suspended from a beam over the thrashingfloor of the barn. Family ties therefore proved powerless. The dog-days would have been the most appropriate season for his taking off.

The London *Enterprise* says thirty-three head of fat cattle recently shipped from there averaged 2,051 pounds, the heaviest one weighing 2,500 pounds. They were three and four year olds, and were weighed at the times announced with the following results: January 26, 1874, 50,370 pounds; April 4, 54,320; May 6, 56,270; June 12, 58,020; July 28, 59,430; August 28, 60,790; September 28, 61,480; October 28, 61,490; November 20, 60,070; December 2, 67,600.

A singular case has just been decided in Akron. Serastian L. Everett, formerly connected with the Akron *City Times*, but more recently connected with the *Daily Argus*, was enjoined from carrying on the *Argus*. It seems that he sold the *Times* to Richard H. Knight, agreeing that he would not engage in the newspaper business in opposition to the *Times*. In violation of this agreement he engaged in the publication of the *Argus*. The injunction will make a change of base necessary.

What Philadelphia is Made Of.

The *Press*, in an article on "Philadelphia's Supremacy," says:

At this time Philadelphia is in possession of more of the elements that go to make up a metropolis than any other American city. Only one exceeds us in population, none in dimensions, and none in the number of our dwellings and the quality of the accommodations for our people. At the beginning of the year 1873 we had 134,740 buildings of all kinds. Of these, 124,302 were dwelling-houses, occupied by families.

This city has a population of near 900,000, and they live in an area of 129½ square miles. It has 1,000 miles of streets and roads opened for use, and over 500 miles of these are paved. It is lighted by near 16th thousand gas lamps. The earth beneath conceals and is penetrated by 134 miles of sewers, over 600 miles of gas mains and 506 miles of water pipes. We have over 212 miles of city railways, and near 1,794 city railroad cars passing over these railroads daily, 3,025 steam boilers, over 400 public schools, with suitable buildings, and over 1,600 school teachers, and over 80,000 pupils. We have over 34,000 bath-rooms, most of which are supplied with hot water, and for the use of the water, at low rates, our citizens pay only $1,000,000 in addition to all local taxes. We have over 400 places of public worship, and accommodations in them for 300,000 persons. We have near 1,000 manufacturing establishments, with a capital of $185,000,000, employing 145,000 hands, the annual product of whose labor is over $384,000,000. We exported in 1872, in value, over $34,000,000, and we imported in value over $26,000,000. The amount paid for duties in gold was near eight millions and a half. The real estate, as assessed for taxation, was over $318,000,000, and we collected near $9,000,000 for taxes. Our funded debt, including the gas loan, in January, 1873, was $61,697,147 67, and our annual outlay in 1875, inclusive of interest on our debt, was $7,726,123. We have parks and public squares, and Fairmount Park, which is one of them, contains 2,991 acres, and is one of the largest parks in the world, and was enjoyed in 1873 by near 3,000,000 of people.

IT IS rumored in Washington that Mr. Justice Swayne, of the United States Supreme Court, contemplates resigning under the law which allows him to do upon full pay. Justice Swayne is an Ohio man, and was appointed by President Lincoln in 1862. Should the rumor prove correct, President Grant will have an opportunity to appoint his fifth judge, thus constituting a majority of the Court. The other judges appointed by him are Chief Justice Waite, of Ohio; Justice W. Strong, of Pennsylvania; J. P. Bradley, of New Jersey, and Ward Hunt, of New York.

The New Orleans *Bulletin* lays down the following Democratic rule: "Republicans should no longer be countenanced in politics, patronized in business, or recognized in social intercourse." It consistently goes on to denounce the churches and that portion of the community who observed the 26th as Thanksgiving Day.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1874.

Confirmation of the Postmaster General.

The nomination of Postmaster General Jewell was called up in the Executive session of the Senate to-day, and at first gave rise to some comment and nolittle stir amongst certain Senators. At the same time Senator Spencer objected to its consideration. This would have had the effect of holding it over until the next meeting. The animus of the opposition was evident to the majority of the Senators, and a feeling of dissatisfaction at the opposition caused them to relent, when the objection was withdrawn and the nomination confirmed.

Bridges Across the Ohio.

The Secretary of War also sent in a communication from Major Merrill, of the Corps of Engineers, opposing the passage of the bill to amend the act for the construction of bridges across the Ohio river. The bill prescribes a shorter span than now authorized, and Major Merrill says its passage would prove detrimental to the interests of navigation.

Internal Improvements.

The Committee on Railroads and Canals had an important meeting, at which they settled the question, by a vote of 10 to 1, that they would recommend appropriations for such works of internal improvement as the James river and Kanawha canal. The question was tested on a motion in favor of a bill for a similar work in Wisconsin. Mr. Arthur, of Kentucky, was the only member of the committee who opposed it, for he does not believe that Congress has any authority to make appropriations for that purpose.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 16, 1874.

Steamboat Bill in the Senate.

Senator Scott, through a dexterous piece of parliamentary strategy, to-day succeeded in getting the Steamboat bill before the Senate. Action on the voluminous District bill having been postponed until to-morrow, he made a timely suggestion to Senator Chandler that if he intended to report the bill, then was the time. The Senator at once acted upon the suggestion and the reading of the bill, of eighty-five pages, was commenced. Senators Conkling and Boutwell will oppose the bill. They remarked to-day that they were not aware upon what grounds Senator Chandler reported it from the committee. Senator Scott will strongly support the bill.

The Centennial Tea Party

in the rotunda of the Capitol to-night, is a great success, and promises to yield a handsome contribution to the patriotic cause.

The Franking Privilege.

The discussion of a paragraph in the Legislative Appropriation bill, to-day, indicted a disposition on the part of certain members to make a movement toward the restoration of the franking privilege. Mr. Kelley led off in favor of the restoration, and was followed by Messrs. Maynard and Myers on the same side. The proposition was, to strike out an appropriation for the purchase of official postage stamps, as a preliminary step to the restoration of the frank. It was admitted by Mr. Garfield that its abolition had not resulted in any saving whatever to the Postoffice Department. The motion was defeated only by a majority of six. The vote gave the advocates of restoration hope, and a bill to restore it will be introduced before the close of the session.

Committee on Vicksburg Troubles.

The Special Committee appointed yesterday to investigate the late political troubles at Vicksburg, will leave here on the 26th of December. They expect to accomplish the object of their appointment in a week and be back by the first week in January.

War Claims Against the Government.

The Committee on War Claims to-day agreed to report two very important bills: one to give the Court of Claims jurisdiction of alien claims; the other to limit the time wherein claims against the United States, which have accrued within six years, may be filed until January 1, 1876.

Congressional Courtesy to the King.

The Joint Committee on the arrangements for the reception of the King of the Hawaiian Islands, have decided that the ceremonies attending his presentation to Congress shall take place on Friday. Senator Cameron will present the King and Speaker Blaine will deliver the address of welcome.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1874.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

The Senate to-day confirmed the following nominations: Marshall Jewell, Postmaster General; Charles F. Conant, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Benjamin Moran, Minister Resident at Portugal; David Thompson, of Ohio, Interpreter to the Legation in Japan; Thomas Hillhouse, Assistant Appraiser, New York; Collector of Revenue—Philip Wadsworth, First district of Illinois. Postmasters—John Algoe, Flint, Michigan; William D. Hitchcock, Alpena, Mich.; H. S. Haskell, Portage City, Wisconsin; James M. Dickerson, Boscobel, Wisconsin; E. M. Shoemaker, Fort Union, New Mexico; Mrs. L. F. Ewing, Logansport, Indiana; George J. Langsdale, Greencastle, Indiana; Alex. W. Deleng, Huntington, Indiana; Robert W. Lampton, Ashland, Kentucky; J. H. Steffee, Georgetown, Kentucky; James Ruth, Lansing, Iowa; Hamilton Crenshaw, Marengo, Iowa; Jacob C. Otis, Glennwood, Iowa; Benj. F. Wright, Charles City Iowa; Henry M. Magee, Cynthiana, Kentucky; Vincent Bradley, Bedford, Iowa; Wickham Hoffman, Secretary of Legation at London; Robert R. Hitt, of Illinois, Secretary of Legation at Paris.

The King of the Cannibal Isles—Society Aggr—A Lively Time Ahead—Race for Invitations—How the King was Received —A Dusky Comment on a Dusky Subject —Society Gone Mad—An Important Decision of the Supreme Court.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 14, 1874.

The advent of the dusky Polynesian monarch has introduced a new feature into the political and social drama at the National Capital for the season of 1874-5. The empty pates of nice young men and foolish girls are quite adrift at the prospects of receptions and balls, and in anticipation of these events, a lively competition exists for invitations for the divers minor entainments, in honor of the King, already hinted at. Unlike stage kings, Kalakaua entered the Capital of the Western Republic minus the tempest of powder, parchment and brass and surging mob which usually adds *eclat* to such flat and formal demonstrations. A delegation of reporters and Cabinet officers (we give them in the order in which they appeared near the sacred person of the King) left the Capital by steam, and hailed the royal visitor in the morasses of the Anacostia. Arriving at the depot, the King, hat in hand, and escorted by the Knickerbocker of the Secret Department, was handed to the carriage in waiting. The band struck up the Hawaiian Hymn, not the "King of the Cannibal Islands," and Tilton's marines presented one hundred and fifty muskets. As customary on such occasions, the forty thousand dark skinned residents were largely over whelming. Their expectancy knew no bounds, and in their eagerness to get a first glimpse of royalty they had taken possession of every available position affording sufficient elevation. The African idea of kingship is associated with supernatural beings. They believe the divinity of royalty, and were ready to fall down in reverence. The depot doors flew back on their hinges and the King stepped forth, when, suddenly, a voice exclaimed, "Adore de Lord, dat King's a nigger!" This unexpected revelation created a round of shouts which the King recognized with a tip of the hat. The sacred person of His Majesty was safely deposited at the hotel, where he has since been enjoying the pleasures of a genuine North American cold and full house in Washington, either of which, doubtless, ere this, have caused His Highness to indulge a longing wish for his own perennial isle. The proposed round of entertainments have been postponed until the King has sufficiently recovered his health. The delay in Congress acting upon the joint resolution to appropriate fifty thousand dollars to defray the expenses attending the entertainment of the King, occasions some comment. There is little doubt, however, of its getting through ultimately. In the meantime the services of the Army and Navy Departments will be drawn upon.

The degeneracy of the public taste, or perhaps the good sense of intelligent people at the National Capital is very plainly set forth in the senseless twaddle published daily under the head of "Society News." In the early days of the capital, as appears in the newspapers, there was a dignity and reserve in social life which stands in striking contrast with the growing toadism and gush spread before the people in the same channels of to-day. As a specimen of this kind of trash, we give a few extracts from the first paper taken up: "The secretary of the Interior will not take another house this winter. Since the sad death of their dear little grandson Mr. and Mrs. Delano have not felt like reentering the gay world.

"The Bazar presented a gay scene last night. All the belles and beaux were present. Many of the gentlemen were in full evening dress. Dancing was quite general. Those who were not present last evening should remember that this is the last evening, and they will miss something very delightful if they remain away. A cup of tea from the fair hands who serve it is a beverage so superior to ordinary tea that those who partake are decluded with the impression that it is nectar such as the gods drank. Miss Fish and Miss Emily Beale, during the evening, served lemonade, and every one said that they had tasted none like it, since that which was served by Nellie Grant at the Martha Washington tea party.

"The wife of Paymaster C. and her guests, Mrs. and the Misses W., received after their return from the Capitol. Miss Jessie and Marie W. are both very beautiful girls, and will no doubt be great belles this winter, as they have besides beauty, vivacity and intelligence. Miss Jessie has a remarkably sweet voice in singing.

"The bachelors' german last evening was select and elegant. The gentlemen all wore stripped silk stockings and low shoes, with buckles and rosettes. The young ladies were dressed with the usual good taste. Many of the young ladies in the city decline going out before the season opens in January. They are desirous of appearing then without their freshness being rubbed off."

The Supreme Court has just decided a case, the principle involved in which is of interest to the relatives and heirs of those who are known as fast men. The case, which came on appeal from the United States Circuit Court for Oregon, was that of a woman claiming as the widow of a wealthy resident of Portland, in that State, a wife's share of his property. The woman, who had been a well-known courtesan, had become the mistress of the deceased, and had been taken by him to his own house, where she lived with him for a year or two before his death. She was then paid $1,000 by his children on condition that she would leave the State. The money was paid her merely to avoid scandal, and with the distinct acknowledgment on her part, that she had no claim whatever on the dead man nor his property. Months after she brought suit for her daughter, alleging that she had been his wife, but produced no evidence to sustain her assertion. The United States Court in Oregon rejected her claim, and the Supreme Court has just sustained that decision. A ruling in her favor would have induced thousands of loose women all over the country, who have maintained illicit connection with men of wealth, to bring similar suits.

DEB. R. K.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1874.

MR. SCOTT presented a memorial setting forth the alleged unjust discrimination against periodicals in the new postal law, and asking for a change. Referred.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 16, 1874.

The Pittsburgh loan market was quite active during the day with increased applications to the banks for discounts, which were freely met at the usual rates. The movement before indicated on the part of the banks to buy up such good paper as comes in their way, knowing that but little commercial paper will be making in the immediate future, still continues.

The currency movement has been but nominal, yet there is not the surplus that was felt some weeks since. As a result exchange is more abundant, and while the banks make no effort to rid themselves of it by payments in Eastern checks, there is no quotable premium for New York and Philadelphia drafts. In the open market there is very little saleable paper offering, and the brokers consequently think it is "hard times" for them.

—The Massachusetts Railroad Commissioners have made their annual report, from which we learn that the results are not as satisfactory as the year before. The roads in the aggregate have increased their capital stock and their debts; their gross earnings have diminished, without a corresponding decrease in operating expenses. The roads included in the report have increased their capital stock $7,535,000. Seventeen roads have increased their gross debt from $58,168,169 to $66,892,275, being an increase of more than twenty-two per cent. The total debt of the twenty-one roads reported amounts to $48,851,207.

The net income of the roads centering in Boston has declined $611,483; their expenses have increased $53,739, and their gross receipts have fallen $557,754. That portion of the report of most interest to the public relates to the average rates charged by the several roads for service. The following table gives the means of comparing the rates of this year with previous years. The rate per mile is given, the amounts being in cents.

	PASSENGERS.		FREIGHT.	
	Transient.	*Season.*		
	1873 to 1874	1874	1873	1874
Boston and Albany	2.60	2.68	2.61	1.65
B., C. and Fitchburg	3.76	2.82	2.80	0.55
Boston, Hartford & Erie	3.58	3.49	3.47	0.86
Boston and Lowell	2.74	2.75	2.67	0.99
Boston and Maine	2.59	2.65	2.27	1.47
Boston and Providence	2.39	2.39	2.39	1.16
Connecticut River	3.59	3.00	3.00	0.82
Eastern	2.47	2.21	2.35	0.85
Old Colony	2.20	2.14	2.10	0.90
	GENERAL AVERAGE.			
	Passengers.		*Freight.*	
	1873	1874	1873	1874
Boston and Albany	2.49	2.42	2.87	2.83
Boston, Concord & Fitchb'g	2.18	2.10	3.20	2.93
Boston, Hartford & Erie	3.24	2.98	3.04	2.86
Boston and Lowell	2.59	2.30	3.00	2.80
Boston and Maine	2.12	1.85	2.85	2.85
Boston and Providence	2.39	2.39	3.19	3.74
Connecticut River	2.80	2.85	3.70	4.09
Eastern	1.82	2.00	4.29	3.17
Old Colony	2.20	2.14	3.90	3.59

The general exhibit is one of decreased changes. Thus there is not one of the nine roads named which has not lowered its average fares for transient passengers during the last two years, and all but three show a reduction within the last year. Five of the nine show a reduction in season tickets in two years, one charges the same as in 1873, and three have increased slightly. On the whole passenger business, five show a reduction in one year, two have not changed, and two have increased slightly. The freight tariffs of four roads have been reduced steadily, one has maintained its charges without change, and on the other four there have been fluctuations; but on six of the nine roads the charges are now lower than two years ago.

Last year but eleven of the twenty-one roads were equipped with continuous brakes, this year fourteen roads have adopted the system, and they have three hundred and seven engines and one thousand one hundred and eleven cars so equipped.

—The Pensylvania Railroad Company is the largest private corporation in the world. It controls 6,000 miles of track, represented by $400,000,000 of securities; its annual revenues amount to $80,000,000, and its net income to $25,000,000. These colossal figures represent the growth of less than half a century.

—From the last quarterly report of Mr. Orton, the President of the Western Union Telegraph Company, we gain the following information:

The comparative earnings are as follows:

	Gross earnings.	Expenses.	Profits.
1874	$6,450,000	$4,050,000	$2,400,000
1873	6,282,033	4,047,016	2,235,017
Inc.	$268,716	Dec. $502,927	Inc. $841,643

These results, though not unexpected, are both gratifying and somewhat surprising. The falling in bills .25 against the year is rather more than 2½ per cent., and has been produced by an increase of only 2½ per cent. in the gross traffic, accompanied by a decrease of something over 9 per cent. in the working expenses, affording unmistakable evidences of the judicious and economical management of the company in the hands of its present directors, who are also the same line of largest stockholders, and who jealously guard the interests of all the proprietors as identical with their own. The decrease in expenses has partly resulted from the decline in prices of supplies and material in consequence of last year's panic, while no reduction has been made in the salaries or wages paid. The hours of labor have, however, been moderately decreased. The improvement in the gross earnings speaks more plainly than any fact which recently came to our knowledge of the gradual but general revival of prosperity in the country at large, but more particularly in the great middle belt of territory extending from New York westward to the Pacific—the region in which the gain seems chiefly to have taken place. The telegraph is among the first of common carriers to feel the depressing effects of general industrial depression, and its decided prosperity is a sure sign of general revival. An agreeable feature of the report is found in the late reduction in the tariff on long distances, and in the promise of an ultimate establishment of uniform rates, the highest of which for any distance will be $1 00 a change which Mr. Orton thinks can be effected without reducing the company's dividends.

—The following table shows the price of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the use of Clair Banking Company, No. 10 Sixth street:

December	10:30 M.	11:30 M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:30 P. M.
Gold	111¼	111¼	111¼	111¼	111¼	111¼
Money						
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	120½		120½	120½		
5-20's, 1862	113		113	113		
5-20's, 1864	113		113	113		
5-20's, 1865	117		117	117¼		
5-20's, 1865, new	117½		117½	117¾		
5-20's, 1867, coup	120¼		120¼	120½		
5-20's, 1867, reg	119½		119½	120		
10-40's, coupons	114¾		114¾	114¾		
10-40's, coupons, 1904	114½		114½	114½		
Currency 6's	116½		116½	116½		
New 5's, reg	108		108	108		
Western Union Tel	82¾	82¾	82¾	82¾		
Quicksilver	37		37	37		
Pacific Mail	38¾	38¾	39¼	39¼	39¾	39¾
Panama						
Adams Express					114½	
Wells-Fargo Express	96¾		82			
American Express	82					
United States Express	64					
New York Central	106¾	106¾	106¾	106¾	106¾	106¾
Erie	27	27¼	27	27	27	27
Michigan Central	88¼		88¼	88¼		
Michigan Southern	80¼	80¼	80¼	80¼	80¼	80¼
Illinois Central	88		88	88		
Chicago & Northwest	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾
Do. preferred						
Rock Island	101¼	101¼	101¼	101¼		
Fort Wayne	94		94	94		
Ohio & Mississippi	30¾	30¾	30¾	31	30¾	30¾
Union Pacific	82¾	82¾	82¾	82¾	82¾	82¾
Harlem						
Hannibal & St. Joseph	37		37	37		
Atlantic & Pac. pref						
Cumberland						
C. & A.						
C. C. C. & I.	97		97	97		
Tennessee, old						
Tennessee, new						
South Carolina, Apr.	25		25	25		
South Carolina, July	25		25	25		
Virginia 6's	97		97	97		

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	52¾	
Pennsylvania Central scrip, sales	50¾	
Reading, sales	55	
United Co.'s of New Jersey	125	
Oil Creek, sales	57¾	
Lehigh Valley	62	62½
Allegheny Valley		
Central Transportation	44	44½
Empire Transportation	53	
Penn. Coal & St. Louis, m. b.		
Gold		111¾

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
WEDNESDAY, December 16, 1874. }

The general report of business in the wholesale and jobbing line, at present is one of dullness. The demand for all classes of goods is limited, and in many departments of trade it is largely absorbed by dealers who are able either by energy or enterprise, or sometimes by undoubted sacrifices, to sell at closer figures than the majority. Such a state of affairs of course causes complaints, to be made generally, and makes trade appear to some, much more stagnant than it really is. However, the volume of transactions is at present quite small in most branches of business, and there does not seem to be much probability of any marked improvement before the close of the year.

Trade in breadstuffs is not an exception to the general rule; although the jobbing trade in flour is reported active, wholesale transactions are very limited. Prices of flour do not show much signs of improvement, although relatively lower than the prices of wheat. The grain market shows a general disinclination on the part of buyers to purchase beyond immediate wants, and as a consequence, transactions are light, with corn and oats rather drooping in price. Wheat is strong and firm. Hay is weak and lower.

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10-40's, coupons	114¾		114¾	114¾		
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Quicksilver	37		37	37		
Pacific Mail	38¾	38¾	39¼	39¼	39¾	39¾
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Michigan Central	88¼		88¼	88¼		
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Illinois Central	88		88	88		
Chicago & Northwest	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾
Do. preferred						
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Allegheny Valley		
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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1874.

THE persecution to which Mr. STOWELL, of Virginia, has been subjected in Congress because he sold a cadetship, was caused, not by his selling it, but by his selling it too low. By the way, *state* is a good name for a Virginian Congressman, isn't it?

PHILADELPHIA does not make a great deal of noise over the steady growth of her trade, but it is developing none the less rapidly for all that. Its imports, alone, thus far this year, are $802,791 47 in excess of those for the same period last year.

THE millenium of peace appears to be as far off as ever. Continental Europe is becoming a vast fortified camp, and a general feeling of insecurity, doubt and distrust appears to prevail among the various governments. Sooner or later the surcharged cloud must burst.

WE BELIEVE it was at Vicksburg that the order of the "Blue and Gray" was formed a few months since, and that it was to bring about the complete ascendancy of brotherly love in the South. It does not appear to have been very successful in the place of its formation.

AND now the Democratic government of Arkansas has ordered the public schools of the State to be closed. As some compensation, however, the sweet note of the revolver and the pleasant shriek of the victim are daily heard in almost every school precinct in that highly favored Commonwealth.

THE value of last week's exports from Philadelphia amounted to $196,468. Since the first of January 70,089,918 gallons of petroleum have been exported from that city to foreign ports. On Saturday there were in port, loading and unloading, 136 vessels of different classes.

FERNANDO WOOD does not want the session of the next Congress to organize on the fourth of March next, and prefers it shall not meet until the first Monday of December next. "Sufficient unto the day," he says, "is the evil thereof." The evil of that day will be much more than sufficient for it.

AN IMPORTANT decision has just been made by the Secretary of the Treasury, concerning shipments of refined petroleum on passenger steamboats. The department rules that it may be put up in either of the following ways: In iron bound barrels as one mode, or in metallic cans packed in boxes, as another.

JUDGE BLACK says that some other Democrat than himself will be elected United States Senator from this State, one who can lift up the old Commonwealth and "wipe all the shames of the past from her queenly brow." As he will probably be a copperhead, it is natural Judge BLACK should look upon him as a wiper.

"PUT a beggar on horseback, and he will ride," everybody knows where. Even so plastic-conscienced a politician as Sunset Cox confesses that schemes are already in process of incubation to his knowledge which will "knock Democracy higher than a kite," if they once chip the shell. Let him make up his mind that the chicks will be hatched—and by-and-by return home to roost.

THE journalistic dry-nurses of Democracy at Washington having succeeded in killing their young organ in that city within the brief space of two weeks after its birth, they now propose to try their Herodic skill upon a daily morning paper. And presently over its grave, too, there will be opportunity to write:

"If so early I am done for,
I wonder what I was begun for."

ALL our Western exploration parties have now returned, and are busily employed in writing up the records of the season's labor, which, it is understood, has been more than ordinarily fruitful in scientific results, a great deal of geographical work of high value having been performed, while in the departments of geology and paleontology important and extensive additions have been made to the general stock of knowledge.

THE report of the Secretary of the Navy refers to the fact that a number of the citizens of Iceland propose to emigrate to Alaska, and says that a man-of-war was lately sent to the Alaskan coast with a company of Icelanders who represented those who seriously think of establishing a colony. He believes, from the reports already received, that this committee of observation will be inclined to favor the emigration which suggested their long journey.

HERE is a specimen illustration of the large, pacific spirit of fraternity by which our "Southern brethren" are animated. The Democratic New Orleans *Bulletin* lays down the rule that Republicans in Louisiana "should no longer be countenanced in politics, patronized in business, or recognized in social intercourse." What sceptic, in view of such exalted ideas and purposes as these, can doubt that the success of the Democracy in 1876 would inaugurate a veritable political millenium?

THE shipments of machinery from the ports of the United States to South America and to Europe are steadily growing. One vessel took out $300,000 worth of machinery from Philadelphia, last week, to South America, and similar shipments are noticed from New England ports. The list of items embraces locomotives, air-compressors, saw mills, sugar mills, evaporators, gas fixtures, railway cars, axes, saws, sewing machines, scales, &c. England has heretofore enjoyed a monopoly of this trade.

IN REVIEWING the present business outlook, the *Financial Chronicle* institutes a comparison between the monetary situation a year since, and now, and finds much encouragement in the contrast. For twelve months the country has been practicing economy, and with a check of business has come an accumulation of savings. These savings are capital, and capital cannot long lie idle without setting the wheels of industry in motion. When the reservoir is at its level it will again overflow, and that time, the *Chronicle* thinks, is now quite near.

OUR foreign grain market is steadily enlarging. In 1872-3 England and her dependencies took almost all the wheat we had to export. Last year we shipped fifteen per cent. to other markets, France buying two millions and a quarter bushels, Belgium three millions and three quarters, and the Netherlands upwards of three millions. Germany, too, bought six times as much as she did during the preceding season. It is evident that our Western farmers need not contract their wheat acreage, yet, spite of the nearer proximity of the Russian and Hungarian grain regions to the consumers.

THE Chicago *Tribune* of Saturday publishes a somewhat remarkable letter from an erring clergyman. The writer of it was, until recently, pastor of a Universalist church at Grand Rapids, Mich. He was charged with improper connection with a young woman, and instead of denying the fact, or laying the blame upon the woman, he frankly confessed his sin, charges it upon his own weak and unguarded soul, and craves the pity and compassion of mankind and the forgiveness of his Maker. The whole spirit of the disclosure is in striking contrast with the usual Machiavelian tone of clerical "statements," with reference to lapses of similar character.

ACCORDING to the latest news from England, the feeling excited by GLADSTONE'S pamphlet has abated very little, if any. Every day some independent English Romanist appears in private, repudiating the Pope's claim to infallibility and other dogmas of his church, a fact which can hardly fail to have an important bearing on the future history of the religious warfare in that country. The most recent revelation of interest in connection with the matter is, that two Irish priests who have just left the Catholic Church have written a letter to Archbishop MANNING, in which they support GLADSTONE'S view that those who obey the Papal decrees cannot possibly pay due allegiance to the civil power.

THE entire pith and kernel of the whole financial question is, whether it is wise to force specie payments before the industry and production of the country are ready for the change? And yet that is precisely what the President and the Secretary of the Treasury, as well as the great bankers and merchants of the Eastern States want. The latter think that New York and its merchant princes, and the great colony of foreign agents and shippers, will make money when the people in the Middle and Western States are cramped and losing. It is the policy of England to resist the rising commerce of this country, and the immediate resumption movement simply represents foreign ideas and foreign interests—neither more nor less.

PROFESSOR SEELYE ON INDIA.

Professor J. H. SEELYE, of Amherst College, lately elected a member of Congress, a few evenings ago delivered a lecture in New York on the subject of India. Professor SEELYE, as some may remember, visited India two or three years ago, and spent some months there lecturing on the evidences of Christianity. His lectures were in the English language, and if missionary letters did not exaggerate, his audiences, consisting of Hindoo graduates of the colleges familiar with English, were not only very large but very deeply impressed by the force and clearness of his argument. Professor SEELYE'S abilities and attainments are, no doubt, greatly superior to the abilities and attainments of the average missionary, and it is not at all unlikely that "Young Bengal," as the class to whom he discoursed is often derisively called, listened with some surprise to a Christian advocate of real power, one capable of placing the claims of Christianity on the intellectual level with which they were familiar in books. "Young Bengal" would of course say that they were impressed, and there was no great harm, perhaps, in taking them at their word. We have not heard, however, that any of the class have given practical proof of having been either convinced or converted.

In his lecture the other evening, Prof. SEELYE stated that "there are tens of thousands of educated Hindoos who speak the English language to perfection, as well as any person in this assemblage. They speak Baconian English, the English of the classics. NARAYAN SHESHADRI whom you had with you during the Evangelical Alliance, is not by any means an extraordinary specimen." As a general statement in a popular lecture, this might possibly pass without criticism; certainly in view of the lecturer's opportunities it is not strange that he made the statement. But compared with the information of persons better acquainted with the subject, the statement requires considerable qualification. Persons long resident in India tell us, that, while young Hindoos, especially those of high caste, possess remarkable facility in learning English, and while a few young men of persistent character attain wonderful mastery both in speaking and writing the language, the great majority never speak it "to perfection." They do, as MR. SEELYE says, speak "Baconian English;" he might have added Shakespearian English, and Spenserian English. In fact, they use the obsolete words, phrases, and idioms they find in their class-books, and often mix them in the strangest and most ludicrous manner with current terms, misapplying both. The copiousness of their vocabulary and their fluent use of it, however, never fail to astonish their English interlocutor, who, if of a sympathetic or indulgent spirit, seldom fails at first to give them more credit than they merit. We need hardly say that the great, all powerful motive which impels Hindoo students in studying the language of their conquerors is the hope of employment under the Government.

To those who have paid some attention to East Indian matters it is surprising to find Professor SEELYE repeating as true the most atrocious fictions of Hindoo barbarity gendered by panic and cowardice during the memorable mutiny of 1857. Indeed, imagination seems to have been busy since and to have invented horrors more horrible than any mentioned or dreamed of when the rebellion was a passing event. The Professorial M. C. tells not only "how the Hindoos rose and butchered every man, woman and child of European extraction *except two*," but "how they took high-born English ladies, stripped them naked in the streets, and then literally *made them drink the blood of their own children after those children's legs and arms had been cut off to furnish the blood.*" A column might be filled with a catalogue of the cruel enormities which, reported in private letters from India, appeared in the British newspapers while the rebellion was in progress; but so far as we recollect, nothing quite so diabolical as this latter trait was then thought of. There were people in India who, thinking it necessary to arouse general feeling in England, deliberately invented and described atrocities which had no existence except in imagination. By these means it was hoped that the English people would be inspired with the rage and energy demanded by the occasion. Most of the atrocities, however, were reported in good faith; that is, by persons who fully believed that they had taken place. The mere truth was sufficiently horrible, the indiscriminate massacre of men, women and children; hence, when an unscrupulous native Christian or half-caste plausibly related some additional horror, the tale was readily accepted as true, especially by those accustomed upon religious grounds to regard heathens as constitutionally predisposed to do whatever is vile and abominable.

As to the truth of the matter, wherever the facts were carefully investigated, the allegation of atrocities over and above the mere killing failed to be established, a result confidently anticipated from the first by strongheaded members of the Government well acquainted with the people. It seems, however, that at least some of those who most easily believed the original stories, still continue to repeat them, and they doubtless were Prof. SEELYE'S informants. As long run it would be better for their cause to accept and tell the truth, if possible. By the Christian tendency which misjudges the heathen TACITUS was probably led into the monstrous error of thinking and calling Christianity a "baleful superstition," and by the same spirit lesser heathen of to-day may be equally misled. It is a malignant spirit properly allen to Christianity, and yet even in Christian lands it works deadly mischief.

POSSIBLE CONFLICTS.

The contemporary who so confidently asserts the impossibility of any conflict between Church and State in this country, has certainly not very carefully considered the subject. Happily, through the separation of Church and State recognized in principle from the beginning and maintained in practice with reasonable consistency, the probability of collision between the two institutions is reduced to a minimum. We may therefore trust, with a comfortable measure of assurance, that we are destined for many years, if not forever, to escape those violent quarrels between the civil and the ecclesiastical powers which have disturbed and even now disturb the peace of other nations on both sides of the Atlantic. It is, however, well to know that if we are to be thus fortunate, the fact will be due in part to the prudence and forbearance of religious and political leaders, and not wholly to the absence of all grounds of dispute. As to the education, placing and payment of clergymen—subjects which enter into the great contest going on in Germany between the Government and the Papacy and which have been a source of trouble to the English Government in Ireland—we may safely feel at ease. They are matters which concern the people solely in their religious or ecclesiastical relations, and which, while Church and State shall continue on their present footing, can never become subjects of political agitation. But there are other questions which form real points of connection between Church and State, the final settlement of which may easily give rise to conflict.

There is, for example, the question regarding the taxation of church property. It has been a good deal discussed during the last four or five years both in conversation and in the newspapers, and in some cases the feeling displayed in the debate has made sufficiently manifest the possibilities of irritation and excitement latent in the topic. The fact is encouraging that in the debate thus far all the earnest church people have not been on one side and all the no church people on the other. Some of those most zealously in favor of taxing church property have been members, even ministers, of churches, while some of the advocates of exemption have been persons not practically identified with any sect.

Another topic of the kind under consideration is the acquisition of property by churches. This is a matter with which the State cannot renounce or surrender its right of interference. It is sufficient to remind the reader of English legislation touching mortmain, and of the historical relations of the subject. The property of ordinary corporations is a subject concerning which American sentiment in different sections of the country is already somewhat excited, and the accumulation of vast quantities of real estate in bodies which cannot alienate is a subject which a republican no more than a monarchical State can help regulating by law. Its regulation, we need hardly say, might involve conflict with ecclesiastical views and plans. Already the provision of the Constitution of the State of Missouri in reference to wills in favor of ecclesiastical persons has given rise to frequent evasions and much litigation, besides being the cause of considerable popular agitation. In other States there have been indications of a growing conviction as to the necessity of legislative intervention of the same subject, not to mention certain mild constitutional provisions evidently designed as premonitory hints which, peradventure, may supersede the necessity foreseen.

The administration of church property is still another subject which involves a question upon or concerning which the interference of the State may become unavoidable. Most readers of a certain age are doubtless able to recollect somewhat of the debate, and even litigation, if we rightly remember, to which this subject gave origin in New York State, some years ago. An eminent churchman, conspicuous on many occasions, shone with peculiar brilliance in maintaining the administrative rights of his order. He was victorious, and Dr. O. A. BROWNSON lately confessed how well he remembers the ignominy of his own defeat as the Archbishop's opponent. Substantially the same question then agitated in New York has lately become practical in Canada, the right of a Bishop absolutely to control the use of a graveyard attached to a church. The British Government, interposing in the case, came into direct conflict with the spiritual power.

Marriage may be mentioned as presenting another point of possible collision between Church and State in this country. It is, however, probable that very many years must elapse before any of the foregoing subjects can occasion any feeling so general or earnest as the feeling already created by what may be called the school question. On this subject there is already a decided conflict between the political power of the country and a portion of the ecclesiastical power. Between the two powers there is no actual dispute as to freedom of instruction—which is a great subject of controversy in some parts of Europe. The State here permits every church not only to establish its own schools, if it pleases, but to assail the State schools with whatever weapons of argument or denunciation or vituperation it chooses to employ. The church which most freely uses both these privileges, or rights rather, desires something more; it demands either State support for its own schools or exemption from taxation for school purposes. But neither of these demands can be complied with by the State without violating what seems a fundamental principle of its life. Thus, on that subject State and Church are directly opposed to each other, and there are those who profess to see no mode of compromise.

NEGRO MIGRATION.

In his once famous pamphlet in favor of the annexation of Texas, MR. ROBERT J. WALKER advanced and rather forcibly maintained the theory, that the negro population of the slave States would be finally transferred to the lands within the tropics. According to the theory, the African is impelled by his instincts to seek a hot climate with all its conditions, and that these instincts are so powerful as to be in the long run irresistible, even a state of slavery being insufficient to overcome the tendency. The speculation may be worth recalling as an illustration of the sort of arguments by which certain politicians formerly strove to reconcile the popular conscience with the temporary toleration of the peculiar institution. Even the slaveholder, while for the present enjoying the services of his animated chattels, could cheerfully entertain the belief that in the remote future their descendants might form a negro republic or monarchy in Mexico or Central America.

Possibly some more or less amusore or less distinct of this old speculation may have had some part in originating the statement lately made in many newspapers, that the freedmen were preparing to migrate *en masse* from Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee and Alabama, into the regions of the Southwest, especially Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The statement receives a flat contradiction from a German paper published in New Orleans, the *Deutsche Zeitung*. If that paper is well informed, the movement among the negroes which suggested the idea of a general migration is a yearly recurring phenomenon. In a case cited by the *Zeitung*, the black field-hand concludes his contract for labor with the planter for a year. The engagement having ended with the gathering in of the crops and the negro having come into possession of his wages, whether in money or in a share of the produce, he as a general rule at once migrates. He goes into another county or another State. So long as his money lasts hardly one of a hundred negro laborers can be prevailed upon to make a new engagement with the same planter. For months he lounges about in the country or the towns hunting, fishing or doing absolutely nothing until want of food compels him to look out for work. And this is asserted to be the fact, not only in the Gulf States, but in the Southern States generally. About Christmas and New Year's many hundred thousands of black laborers in the entire South throw aside all labor for weeks and months. In consequence of this habit, most of the planters are regularly compelled towards the close of the year, to seek for laborers to take the places of those leaving them. This is done by agents who, in Georgia, the Carolinas, Alabama, and even in Virginia, engage the men they there find vagabondizing and march them in caravans of hundreds or thousands from one State into another. This process, says our authority, is repeated every winter, that is to say, thousands of negroes who, last year, were imported from Georgia or Virginia into Louisiana, this year leave their employers, some going in one direction, some in another, to Texas, Arkansas, and not a few of them returning to the place from which they came twelve months before.

The paper from which the foregoing statement is taken remarks, no doubt justly, that these vagabond habits and the disposition in which they originate must be overcome before the freedmen can become either prosperous or trustworthy members of society. There is, however, nothing discouraging or at least nothing suggestive of despair in the traits indicated. Having had time to "realize" his freedom by wandering as he pleases, the freedman may, we suppose, be expected, under the pressure of a non-tropical climate and the example of his energetic white neighbors, to avoid the fate of his liberated brethren in the West India Islands.

THE recent decision of the Democratic Supreme Court of Indiana, denying colored children admission to the public schools in places where separate schools are not established, is based on the ground that "the general school laws of the State provide for the education of the children of the white race, and at the time it was passed the courts say negroes were not citizens of the State or the United States." According to this definition, only the children of persons who were, at the time of the passage of this law, citizens, are entitled to the benefit of the public schools; whence it now becomes the duty of school boards to examine the papers of all foreigners and to exclude the children of such as are not able to show their citizenship at the date of the passage of the law. For the statute does not employ the term white, and the court has held that citizenship acquired after the passage of the law—as in the case of the negro—does not entitle the children of the elector to share in the benefits of these schools. In logical effect, therefore, Democratic Indiana not only refuses to foster the education of its colored element, but also of the offspring of alien parents, and of foreign born citizens who were not naturalized when the school laws of that State were passed.

THE German Government has, since the war with France, coined new gold coins and put them in circulation to the amount of $275,000,000. Prior to this issue of gold coin there was in circulation about $375,000,000 of silver money, which had previously sufficed for all the wants of the country. The effect of putting the gold coin into circulation while the silver was still out was that the price of silver fell suddenly, and gold was at a premium. There are still, after two years' effort to retire it, $100,000,000 of this silver money still afloat, and as silver is the cheapest, everybody uses it to the exclusion of gold, and gold continues steadily to be exported. It will thus be seen that a gold currency does not make gold current. If the Government of this country were to put out $200,000,000 of coin, to-day, in redemption of its notes, the coin would be hoarded for export, and silver or paper would take its place. In the times of the old State banks it was always the worst paper that was current. The bad was sure to float on top, and the good was held in reserve. Either we must make our paper and silver equal in value to gold, or they will be sure to displace it.

IF THE country, under President JOHNSON, could not stand the contraction of four millions a month instituted by Secretary MCCULLOCH, how can it now stand the instantaneous contraction of two hundred millionss, which the hard money men propose as a preliminary to resumption? The slow process of MCCULLOCH was infinitely preferable to the rapid process which BRISTOW wants to father; yet the outcry against it was so terrible that Congress had to step in and put an end to the contracting policy altogether. MR. BRISTOW may think he can do what MCCULLOCH utterly failed to do; but he can arrive at that conclusion only by ignoring the plain facts of recent history. Rapid contraction is rapid ruin. There can be no resumption, we know, without contraction; but we can much better afford to wait a long time for resumption than to ruin ourselves in our blind hurry to attain to it. We must begin to get out of debt before we begin to get out of bankrupt, loaded down with more debts than he can pay, might as well talk of resuming payments as a nation in our heavily indebted condition to talk of resuming specie payments.

STRANGE as it may seem, it really begins to look as if the Southern States might, before very long, to some extent supply the North with manufactured cotton goods. The mills of South Carolina, Georgia and other Southern States are all manufacturing plain goods to advantage. Machinery from the Northern States is being freely transported to those regions, and skilled labor and capital are beginning to follow. It is claimed that the South enjoys an advantage of at least twenty per cent. over Northern manufacturers, and every company in the States above mentioned has this year paid dividends ranging from twenty to twenty-five per cent., besides carrying over large sums to their reserve funds. Energy and perseverance would soon emancipate the entire South from whatever adverse circumstances may at present surround it.

"THE Cincinnati *Commercial* hears of New York Democrats—lots of 'em—who regard Fernando Wood as the coming man for the Presidency in 1876."—*Springfield Republican.*

Why not? He possesses all the requisite qualifications. He was almost a rebel when the war broke out, and a good deal worse, for he was a traitor to his own State. His reputation for knavery and trickery is also firmly established—reaching back to the times when he was Mayor of New York. More recently he was an outspoken salary-grab defender, and pocketed the money. A thorough-going representative of the spirit of political reaction and corruption, he would seem to be exactly the sort of man whom his party should delight to honor.

PERSONAL.

General Longstreet is reported to be on his dying bed.

Mr. Ham, editor of the Dubuque *Herald*, has married Miss Well. We trust that he has done well, and she likes her Ham well.

Miss Annie L. Howells, a clever sister of the well-know editor of the *Atlantic*, has adventured upon a serial story, which is to appear next year in the *Galaxy*.

Admiral Worden, who commanded the *Monitor* in her famous fight with the *Merrimac*, intends to petition Congress, on behalf of himself and his officers and men, for bounty.

Miss Lies, of San Francisco, had the honor of being the first young lady to take King Kalakaua by the hand in the United States. He will meet plenty more of the same family during his sojourn here.

From a New England paper published in 1796: "Whereas, it is reported that I, the subscriber, have injured the character of the late Mr. Benjamin Lemon, of Portsmouth, field, by saying that he sold lemons in Portland; this certifies that I have no reason to think that he is guilty of such a crime. (Signed) David Hobbs."

Two young boys, aged respectively ten and twelve, disappeared from an interior town in Kansas about three weeks ago. They were not heard of until last Friday, when the father of one of the chaps received a letter from a sister in New York, announcing their arrival in that city. They started with fifty cents, and it is our opinion those boys will either go to Congress or State prison.

Says a Washington letter writer: "It is the boast of Englishmen for Victoria, that she is a virtuous wife and mother; of Napoleon III., that he improved Paris, and of Victor Emmanuel, that he united Italy. These praises may be renewed of a President whohas been all of these to his family, his party and his country." We have heard almost everything of Grant, but never before that he was a "wife and mother"—virtuous or otherwise.

A gentle, husbandless creature in Iowa writes to a lawyer who advertised that he would provide companions for unmarried persons: "Dear Sir,—This is to certify that I am a widow with thirteen children born, have had three husbands, each of which died in peace in his own way. I have a small farm, and would take another husband or I could find one. A young man, an old, bull-headed sardine need apply, he will not be taken in. Ten dollars will be given to you to produce the man."

The *Westminster Review* for October pays an uncommonly high compliment to an American woman. It says: "Doctress Putnam-Jacobi is known to a few persons here, but beyond this small circle her name has probably never been heard in England. We confidently assert, however, that no physician duly acquainted with the more recent researches in physiology and pathology—especially in the physiology and pathology of the nervous system—can rise from the perusal of her essay on 'Mental Action and Physical Health' without being deeply impressed with the conviction that the essay possesses merits far beyond those of the great majority of medical essays by her male cotemporaries." Doctress Putnam-Jacobi is a daughter of the late author and publisher, George P. Putnam. She graduated with distinguished honors from the University of Paris, being the first American woman who did so.

"Jenkins" Outdone.

The marriage of Malia, daughter of De Louza Cabral, the great diamond merchant of South America, to George Arthur Thockmorton, late of Kentucky, but now engaged in railroading in Rio Janeiro, causes the Newlands-Sharon nuptials, magnificent though they were, to sink into utter insignificance. The father of the bride is the richest man in the world, his fortune being estimated at fifty billions. Mr. Thockmorton himself is no beggar, for he counts his dollars by the millions, and will some day be richer than his father-in-law. The wedding took place at Cabral's residence, near Rio Janeiro, and the number of guests exceeded one thousand, the invitations being inclosed in boxes of sandalwood, costing $1,200 each. The rooms were decorated with camelias set with diamonds, one hundred music boxes set with precious stones played the wedding march as the bridal pavement from the wedding depot to the mansion, of more than a quarter of a mile, was spread with camel's-hair shawls. The bride's dress is literally indescribable. It cost millions of dollars. The bride's gifts number 1,840—among them a dinner set of 280 pieces, given by the mother, each piece bearing the Cabral-Thockmorton monogram in diamonds, the whole costing $4,000,000; one thousand yards of point lace; 365 dresses; a title deed for a magnificent town and country house for each capital in the world; a yacht-ship, with a full complement of sailors under contract for ten years' service; one dozen milk-white Arabian steeds; a necklace of thirty of the largest and finest diamonds in the world, with a fantastic face cut upon each stone—the necklace costing $16,800,000 75. There were other wonderful presents, anyone not in full accord with them to be on the street. One poor old negro by the name of Ambrose Brown was ordered off the street by Captain Cowan, a former rebel battery commander, and being tardy in going, Cowan deliberately shot him. Many prisoners were taken and kept in the Court House, and taken out in the morning. With winks and nods, and laughter and jest, it was reported that three of the most obnoxious made their escape, which means they have simply been murdered while prisoners.

Broom corn, which has been driven out of the Connecticut valley by tobacco and the failure of the old generous margin of profit, is flourishing at a great rate in California.

Boston, the sixth city in population and the second in valuation in the United States, has only 115 acres of public grounds within its limits, while Philadelphia has 3,074 acres.

Maryland is a suitor against the Northern Central Railroad in two cases before the Supreme Court at Baltimore, to enforce a tax on the gross receipts of the road within the State.

A European contract has just been offered to an American firm for the manufacture of 3,500,000 pounds of saltpetre, a transaction which certainly smells more of gunpowder than of peace.

Joseph Wolfe, a Kentuckian who had listened to the inaugural address of every President of the United States from Washington to Grant, died at the age of eighty-five years, last Saturday.

Of the 38,000 children in the Chicago schools, some 10,000 are prevented from attending more than half the day by the exigencies of room. And yet people talk of compulsory education.

A Florida planter has raised on fifty acres of land a crop of sorghum which will yield him five hundred barrels of syrup, which, at fifty cents a gallon, a low figure, gives a handsome income for the crop.

A correspondent inquires the reason of the rapid depopulation of the Sandwich Islands. We suppose the various contrivances of modern civilization, such as rum, corsets, soap and fine-tooth combs did it.

After all the fuss about the great value of the agricultural products of California being superior to the mining interests, the grain production for the present year has only exceeded that of mining some four millions.

The New Jersey Court of Appeals has decided that an agreement by a railroad company to carry goods for certain persons at a cheaper rate, under the same conditions, than for others, is void, as creating an illegal preference.

The Foreign Demand for English Coal.

The relative importance of the demand for English coal in different parts of the world is shown by the following return of the exports for the month of September. The total of 1,297,739 tons was divided as under: France took 186,400 tons; India, 120,704; Germany, 101,013; Russia, 91,059; South America, 89,822; Italy, 89,341; Denmark, 76,577; Africa, 71,099; Prussia, 68,839; Sweden, 64,772; the Mediterranean islands, 59,915; Holland, 50,894; Norway, 38,917; Spain, 37,722; Turkey, 30,388; the Antilles, 25,706; North America, 24,988; Belgium, 24,731; Portugal, 15,062; Austria, 10,009; the Channel islands, 6,419; Greece, 4,668; Australia, 4,356; the Madeira islands, 3,624; other places, 1,810. Of the French ports, Dieppe took the largest amount, namely, 24,335 tons. Of the total export of 1,297,739 tons, 622,943 came from Northern ports, 165,693 from Yorkshire, 5,192 from London, 80,055 from Liverpool, 337,655 from the Bristol Channel, 146,198 from Scotland.

IN THE the new volume of Poe's poems, edited by R. H. Stoddard, the editor in the preface thus gives the last scene in the life of Poe: "He started from Richmond October 2d, 1849, and arrived at Baltimore between trains and unfortunately took a drink with a friend—the consequence of which was that he was brought back from Havre de Grace in a state of delirium. It was on the eve of a municipal election, and as he wandered up and down the streets of Baltimore, he was secured by the lawless agents of a political club and locked up in a cellar all night. The next morning he was taken out in a state of frenzy, drugged, and made to vote in eleven different wards. The following day he was found in a back room at the political headquarters and removed to a hospital. He was insensible when found, and remained so on Sunday, October 7. The doctor and nurse were with him when he first showed consciousness. 'Where am I?' he asked. They answered, 'You are cared for by your best friends.' After a pause, by which he seemed to recall what had occurred, and to realize his situation, Poe replied, 'My best friend would be the man who would blow out my brains.' Within ten minutes he was dead."

"Whosoever shall shoot of any gun on any Nesssesarie occasion or att any Game whatsoever except att an Indian or a Whoolfe shall forfeite five shillings for every such shott," was the order of the General Court of new Plymouth, dated June 1, 1674.

APOLOGY.

There rings, in my heart's inner chambers,
A music I love to hear:
'Tis so weird, yet so sweet and subduing,
That I fancy Israfeel is near,
And that 'tis his lute I hear.

And so, knowing the music unearthly,
I listen entranced to its flow:—
And so, knowing the music is heavenly,
I listen to its ravishing flow,
All unheeding the hours that go.

This music, I know, never ceases,
But sometimes it grows faint and low;
And sometimes the world's din and confusion
Rises above its flow—
Drowns its sweet rythmic flow.

And then, though Psyche would tarry—
Though my soul would delight to stay
To catch its first notes on awaking,
I, resolute, turn me away
To join in the work with the workers
Who strive to improve the day—
Who "labor while yet it is day."

But though I go out from its presence,
Its memory remaineth to cheer,
To encourage, enliven and strengthen,
As a well-beloved friend that is near
May enliven, encourage and cheer.

And so, though I work with the workers,
Who toil through the wearisome day—
And so, though the world's strife and turmoil
May hush its soft strains for a day,
I still feel its influence and power;
It makes me to sing on my way.

A. J. BONSALL.

PITTSBURGH, December 5, 1874.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

"A Christmas gambol oft doth cheer
The poor man's heart through half the year."

Prince Lelelohoku rules Hawaii while Kalakaua is here visiting.

Lexington, Massachusetts, is preparing statues of those sturdy patriots, John Hancock and Samuel Adams.

Don't go to law. Robert Law, the heaviest coal dealer in Chicago, has been sued for delivering "short weight."

Here is another unjust discrimination against the Republican party. A Democratic paper demands "a tariff on truth."

"Sunset Cox has prepared a satire upon the entire finance debate." Sunset is himself a speaking satire upon statesmanship.

The first annual convention of the Young Men's Christian Association in Virginia, is announced to meet in Richmond, December 27.

An intelligent and virtuous Democratic member of the Alabama Legislature proposes to make the robbing of potato patches burglary.

There is a large, though quiet, emigration going on to California and Oregon from the East, generally of a good class of population.

The Agassiz memorial will soon be commenced. The fund is rapidly increasing, contributions pouring in from all sections of the country.

No single, solitary girl in a Western mining town was ever so courted and smugged up to as is William Allen by the Ohio Democracy.

Some money. The Crown Point and Belcher gold mines of California have yielded forty-six million dollars within the last four years.

The Smith and Wesson pistol manufactory has just made another contract with the Russian Government for 100,000 of the largest size revolvers.

A modern Golgotha. There have been sent from Spain to Cuba since 1869, 82,500 soldiers, of whom 36,412 have succumbed on the field or from disease.

The other day a Minnesota farmer, upon breaking an egg, found therein a serpent five inches long. The hen that laid it probably had delirium tremens.

There are many ways of getting half seas over. In Sweden, last year, there were 105,408 imperial gallons of superior whisky manufactured from sea moss.

An iron ship-yard has been established on the banks of the Mississippi, at Carondelet, near St. Louis, and the works and shops are rapidly progressing.

Some of those immediate resumptionists in Congress have extraordinarily hardy constitutions. At last they can bear an immense amount of teaching.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is preparing to bring suits against the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad Company, for $160,000 unpaid taxes.

Out in Michigan a woman with two husbands is not guilty of bigamy if she marries her first husband before she is eighteen years of age. So the courts say.

Stocks are watered in Egypt, too, it seems. They rise and fall, not according to the movements of the bulls and bears, but with reference to the state of the river Nile.

Broom corn, which has been driven out of the Connecticut valley by tobacco and the failure of the old generous margin of profit, is flourishing at a great rate in California.

Boston, the sixth city in population and the second in valuation in the United States, has only 115 acres of public grounds within its limits, while Philadelphia has 3,074 acres.

Maryland is a suitor against the Northern Central Railroad in two cases before the Supreme Court at Baltimore, to enforce a tax on the gross receipts of the road within the State.

A European contract has just been offered to an American firm for the manufacture of 3,500,000 pounds of saltpetre, a transaction which certainly smells more of gunpowder than of peace.

Joseph Wolfe, a Kentuckian who had listened to the inaugural address of every President of the United States from Washington to Grant, died at the age of eighty-five years, last Saturday.

Of the 38,000 children in the Chicago schools, some 10,000 are prevented from attending more than half the day by the exigencies of room. And yet people talk of compulsory education.

A Florida planter has raised on fifty acres of land a crop of sorghum which will yield him five hundred barrels of syrup, which, at fifty cents a gallon, a low figure, gives a handsome income for the crop.

A correspondent inquires the reason of the rapid depopulation of the Sandwich Islands. We suppose the various contrivances of modern civilization, such as rum, corsets, soap and fine-tooth combs did it.

After all the fuss about the great value of the agricultural products of California being superior to the mining interests, the grain production for the present year has only exceeded that of mining some four millions.

The New Jersey Court of Appeals has decided that an agreement by a railroad company to carry goods for certain persons at a cheaper rate, under the same conditions, than for others, is void, as creating an illegal preference.

The Foreign Demand for English Coal.

The relative importance of the demand for English coal in different parts of the world is shown by the following return of the exports for the month of September. The total of 1,297,739 tons was divided as under: France took 186,400 tons; India, 120,704; Germany, 101,013; Russia, 91,059; South America, 89,822; Italy, 89,341; Denmark, 76,577; Africa, 71,099; Prussia, 68,839; Sweden, 64,772; the Mediterranean islands, 59,915; Holland, 50,894; Norway, 38,917; Spain, 37,722; Turkey, 30,388; the Antilles, 25,706; North America, 24,988; Belgium, 24,731; Portugal, 15,062; Austria, 10,009; the Channel islands, 6,419; Greece, 4,668; Australia, 4,356; the Madeira islands, 3,624; other places, 1,810. Of the French ports, Dieppe took the largest amount, namely, 24,335 tons. Of the total export of 1,297,739 tons, 622,943 came from Northern ports, 165,693 from Yorkshire, 5,192 from London, 80,055 from Liverpool, 337,655 from the Bristol Channel, 146,198 from Scotland.

IN THE the new volume of Poe's poems, edited by R. H. Stoddard, the editor in the preface thus gives the last scene in the life of Poe: "He started from Richmond October 2d, 1849, and arrived at Baltimore between trains and unfortunately took a drink with a friend—the consequence of which was that he was brought back from Havre de Grace in a state of delirium. It was on the eve of a municipal election, and as he wandered up and down the streets of Baltimore, he was secured by the lawless agents of a political club and locked up in a cellar all night. The next morning he was taken out in a state of frenzy, drugged, and made to vote in eleven different wards. The following day he was found in a back room at the political headquarters and removed to a hospital. He was insensible when found, and remained so on Sunday, October 7. The doctor and nurse were with him when he first showed consciousness. 'Where am I?' he asked. They answered, 'You are cared for by your best friends.' After a pause, by which he seemed to recall what had occurred, and to realize his situation, Poe replied, 'My best friend would be the man who would blow out my brains.' Within ten minutes he was dead."

"Whosoever shall shoot of any gun on any Nesssesarie occasion or att any Game whatsoever except att an Indian or a Whoolfe shall forfeite five shillings for every such shott," was the order of the General Court of new Plymouth, dated June 1, 1674.

THE VICKSBURG MASSACRE.

Another Brilliant "Flash of Southern Sentiment."

The Murder of Negroes Deliberately Planned and Executed by the Unregenerate Rebels.

[From the Cincinnati Commercial.]

That a false account of the slaughter of colored men in the neighborhood of Vicksburg has been spread over the country, by those who are sympathizers with the aggressors, guilty of needless and most wicked bloodshed, we are not at liberty to doubt.

We have, from a source that commands confidence, a statement that is due the country. Our information is that the active whites of Vicksburg had some time since determined to "clean out" the present officeholders. Three of these officeholders were indicted at the last term of the grand jury. Crosby, the Sheriff, was the one especially aimed at. It was determined that he should be put out of office. The papers insisted upon the Board of Supervisors meeting on Wednesday of last week and requiring Crosby to give good bond. A meeting of that body was called, and it is known that the intention was to require Crosby to give a good bond.

But the citizens, headed by a hot-headed and irresponsible set of men, put out an incendiary circular, calling for a meeting of the citizens of the county on the same day the Board of Supervisors were to meet. And every one knew full well that it was the intention that the board should be forced to do what was wanted, or personal violence used. So the country members failed to put in an appearance. But the citizens held their meeting. It was attended mostly by the younger men and irresponsible parties spoiling for a row. During the session, a committee of five lawyers was appointed to report if all legal means to oust Crosby had been exhausted. A majority of the committee reported that all legal means had not been exhausted. A minority report was made by two young limbs of the law, saying that all legal means had been exhausted and that the time for action had come. By "action" they meant force, and by force they meant the rope. No concealment was made in their talk about hanging, etc. A committee was appointed to wait upon certain officials and demand their resignation. The meeting adjourned to await the report. The officials who could be found begged time to consult their lawyers, but failed to reply in the time given them. On the reassembling of the meeting in the afternoon, and hearing the report of their committee, they resolved to adjourn in a body to the Court House and demand the resignation of the officers. On reaching the Court House all the officers fled but Crosby. He signed a resignation. No one